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Sheriff candidates discuss homelessness, immigration

By Ken Lay

The race to become Knox County's next sheriff has kicked into high gear, and four candidates are bidding to replace Tom Spangler, who will soon depart the office due to term limits.

Spangler is completing his second term as Knox County Sheriff as he's served the county in that capacity for nearly eight years.

The four candidates looking to become Knox County's sheriff include Jimmy "J.J." Jones, David Amburn, Mike Davis and Brent

Gibson.

All have extensive law enforcement experience.

Jones served as Knox County Sheriff from 2007-2018. Amburn is KCSO's Chief of Detectives, while Davis worked for the sheriff's office before becoming a federal agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Gibson served as the KCSO's former Assistant Chief Deputy.

Early last week, the four candidates participated in a forum, hosted by the Greater Knoxville Hospitality Association at

Knoxville's Embassy Suites West on Monday, March 30.

The candidates answered questions regarding some of the issues that concern county voters.

Homelessness and immigration took center stage last Monday night, and Jones' sales pitch was based largely on his previous experience as Knox County Sheriff.

"I was a sheriff for 11 years from 2007-18," Jones said. "I've done the job and I'm ready to do the job again."

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Jimmy "JJ" Jones, Brent Gibson, Mike Davis and David Amburn, all running for Knox County Sheriff, discuss the issues of homelessness and immigration at a forum in West Knoxville last week.



An upside down view!

For high jumpers, that's what many of them use, as most use the Fosberry Flop. That's what Grace Christian junior Kaden Webber used to win the high jump in last Thursday's Roadrunner Invitational. He cleared 6 feet for first place. Track and Field is just one of several spring sports going on now. Others include baseball, softball, flag football, tennis, boys soccer and lacrosse. See Sports & Recreation for more spring sport stories and pictures as well as other sports in Section C. Photo by Luther Simmons.

Who's running for federal or state office in Knox County?

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

There are 263,918 registered voters in Knox County, according to the Election Commission, and they will see lots of elections this year, starting with the local offices and followed by the federal and state offices.

The federal and state primary is set for August 6, with the general election planned for November 3. The ballots will also include candidates for governor.

Within Knox County, voters in the primary and general elections will vote on state Senate and state House of Representatives candidates.

Republican incumbent Richard Briggs will face Kent Morrell in the state Senate District 7 primary, with the winner to face Democrat Bryan Langan.

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Mayoral hopefuls talk qualifications, county's future at hospitality forum

By Ken Lay

Candidates seeking to become Knox County's next mayor appeared at a forum at a local hotel early last week in West Knoxville.

The three Republican candidates, including current Knox County Commissioners Larsen Jay and Kim Frazier and Knox County Board of Education member Betsy Henderson, and Democrat Beau Hawk, a labor leader, attended a forum to discuss the issues concerning voters.

The four candidates are seeking to succeed Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who has served nearly eight years in office and is term-limited. The

candidates convened at a forum hosted by the Greater Knoxville Hospitality Association at Embassy Suites Knoxville West on Monday, March 30.

Jay and Frazier are at-large commissioners, while Henderson is the chair of the Knox County Board. Hawk is the president of the Knoxville-Oak Ridge Labor Council.

Jay said that his professional experiences in both the private and public sectors position him to effectively serve as Knox County's next mayor.

"When you're the mayor, you're the CEO for the people of Knox County," Jay said. "I've served eight years on the county commission and I've owned

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Council splits on response teams, approves transit aid

By Pete Gawda

Public transportation and 911 response teams were the focus of attention at the Tuesday, March 31, meeting of the Knoxville City Council.

Council member Amelia Parker proposed a resolution endorsing the Alternative Response Business and Service Delivery Plan. Under this plan, unarmed response teams of trained professionals would address nonviolent 911 calls concerned with mental health, homelessness or substance abuse, thus freeing the police to respond to violent crimes.

After a lengthy discussion involving council members and citizens, the resolution failed with a tie vote.

There were three citizens who spoke in favor of the resolution and one who spoke against it. Those council members voting yes were: Matthew



PHOTO BY PETE GAWDA

Members of Justice Knox, decked out in red T-shirts, came out in force to the Tuesday, March 31 meeting of the Knoxville City Council to show their support for a resolution which would expand bus service.

DeBardelaben, Charles Thomas, Denzel Grant and Amelia Parker. Those voting no were: Doug Lloyd, Charles Thomas, Lynne Fugate and Debbie Helsey. Nathan Honeycutt was absent.

As for transportation, the

council agreed to authorize the mayor to execute a contract with Alfred Benesch & Company to plan an integrated transit system which maximizes ridership and supports access to parks, affordable housing and employment. The contract

was in an amount not to exceed \$74,332.

One of the speakers in support of the contract was Margaret Bickley, who stated that there are 10,000 households in Knoxville that do not have

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

The King

A Spiritual perspective makes life better now and there is the hope of then.

James V. Ferguson, MD, FACP

Here we go again. The fools are marching and proclaiming "No Kings." These rubes apparently don't realize that the last king we had was 250 years ago; or was it Obama who proclaimed, "Get my healthcare...or pay a fine"? No, that's not right, it was Biden who threatened, "Get my vaccine... or lose your job." Leftist losers love it when their authoritarians demand we bend a knee to their ideological deities. Does any rational person believe that if we had a king or a mullah in charge, protests would be allowed?

I had to laugh as I watched news clippings of the attendees. I laugh because no one takes them seriously. I mean, how could you? Prancing frogs, ancient hippies

wheeling protest songs and old geezers advocating open borders, abolishment of ICE, reparations for stolen land and for traumatizing illegals, while waving Communist flags. Bernie the communist Sanders may rail at billionaires, but billionaires are the bozos who fund these faux "spontaneous" marches. What really riles Democrats is that President Trump found a way to relieve the logjams at airports with ICE and pay TSA agents despite our do-nothing Congress, which left on a two-week Easter holiday.

Last week was Holy Week, when a third of the world's population remembered and celebrated Jesus' martyrdom and resurrection.

When I was a Methodist, I loved singing the old hymns of faith. I still "Love to Tell the Old, Old Story of Jesus and His Love" ♪ (Katherine Hankey). Even atheists know the story of

Jesus' life and his martyrdom by religious and secular authorities two millennia ago. But it was The King's resurrection that changed the world.

Lee Strobel was a courtroom reporter and an atheist who decided to investigate and debunk the resurrection story. He ended up a Christian when he was unable to discredit the considerable ancient evidence which he distilled into 5 Es: Christ Existed, he was Executed, there was an Empty tomb, there were more than 500 Eye witnesses who saw Christ after his execution and there was Early adoption of the Christian story and ethos, whereas myths take generations to take hold.

C. S. Lewis was another atheist who researched the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Lewis was likewise converted by The Greatest Story Ever Told. Lewis concluded in his trilemma that Jesus was either a liar, lunatic or Lord. And since there was no evidence of either of the first two, Lewis bent his knee to the Way, the Truth and the Life and became the greatest Christian apologist of the 20th century.

The ancient Greek Aristotle held that something does not come from nothing. We moderns call that perspective causality. I'm here because of my

parents and they existed because of their parents going all the way back to what we conceptually refer to as the Big Bang. For me, it makes infinitely more sense to believe there was a Creator who imparted energy into "the void" and created this reality, than to imagine the Universe just "popped" into reality 13.8 billion years ago like some bubble of soap rising up in the bathtub. I side with evidence, logic and probability over fanciful speculation.

Last week, I asked the question if it would be better to accept your mistakes and change or continue to deny reality and double down on your errors. Obstinate Democrats have chosen the illogic of the latter and are causing all of us to suffer.

Recently, I read that King Charles may be coming to the United States, but who cares? Being a "colonial," I have little use for the British monarchy. I did have high regard for Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth, but not the current bunch of royals. I've come to understand that in a parliamentary form of government, kings and presidents are titular figureheads. Perhaps it is wrong to blame King Charles for the feckless British government that refuses to support the US, its NATO partner, against the Iranian terrorist

regime. Remember, we did support them in their Falkland War with Argentina.

Perhaps it is best that we discover how useless NATO has become. We should leave the pseudo-alliance and let the Euros deal with Ukraine and Putin. And after we defang the Iranian lion, let the Euros get their own oil. We don't need it.

In my travels, I'm glad that I experienced Europe before it was lost. There are exceptions like Poland and Hungary, which remember what it was like to live under the communist boot. Additionally, Portugal deserves consideration, but the socialist Spain seems intent on a reverse Reconquista. So be it!

I've often wondered how people survive without a sense of the sacred. Some "luminaries" claim "intellectual honesty" for their obstinacy. Unfortunately, some smart people are made stupid by their hubris. (Physicist Neil deGrasse Tyson comes to mind.) I don't purport to know everything. I agree with Socrates and Jesus, who said only God was wise. Watch out for stupid smart people because they are dangerous to themselves and others. And a lot of them are in Congress.

Dems can't win on their policies of open borders, defending illegals, and I

Hate Trump. Senator Sperticus, Cory Booker, said they are against Trump and any Republican policy. They hate MAGA and Trump and call that a platform. Since they have nothing to run on, they must lie and cheat to win. That's why the SAVE Act must be passed to reestablish trust in the election process. Florida just passed their own SAVE Act.

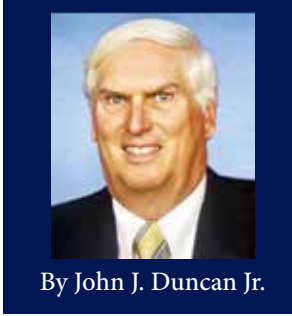
President Trump is no king. He is the duly elected president of our country after winning a majority of the popular vote, all the swing states and an overwhelming majority in the electoral college. On the other hand, Democrats have the belief that they are entitled to rule us because they perceive themselves as feeling so deeply. However, feelings, virtue signaling yard signs and protests do not trump other opinions and the majority of Americans.

Kings issue decrees to their subjects. President Trump went before the American people last week and logically explained the necessity of the Iran war because elected presidents are subject to the will of the people through public opinion and the vote. Only fools think otherwise.

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

A War Of Choice, Not Necessity

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr.

On March 23, CBS News published a national poll saying that two-thirds of the American people felt the Iran War was a war of choice rather than one of necessity. The war has grown even less popular since then.

I have been to many public events and have talked to very many people over the last month or so and have been amazed at the strong feelings about this war. The opinions

have ranged from a belief that we never should have gotten into it at all to those who express a very strong desire for us to get out immediately.

Almost no one is positive about this war, and hardly any who have talked to me about this are on the far left. Most are conservative or moderate in their political beliefs.

Almost every article about the recent Conservative Political Action Conference in Texas had the same storyline: Support for President Trump on almost everything except the Iran War.

I believe that President Trump and his advisers know how unpopular this war is and that if it continues for much longer, Republicans will have big losses in the midterm

elections. This is why the president had to speak to the nation on April 1, but early polls say he didn't change many minds. The Reuters headline the next morning said: "Hopes dim for quick end to Iran war after Trump speech, oil prices surge anew."

Jeffrey Sachs has the honor of being named the top professor at Columbia University in New York City. He is one of the most respected economists and foreign policy experts in the U.S. and has been called on for advice by many countries all over the world.

He said on Judge Napolitano's podcast, Judging Freedom, on March 30 that the Iran War has "brought the world to the brink of the greatest economic disaster in modern history."

He and many others have

pointed out that so much damage has been done to the oil and gas infrastructure in the Middle East that it will take a long time to recover, even if the war is settled very soon.

Often as much as one-third of the world's fertilizer comes through the Strait of Hormuz, and diesel fuel has gone up more than automobile gas. These prices affect farmers and truckers most of all, and this means that food prices and everything that is delivered by trucks will be going up even more.

About 43 percent of U.S. electricity comes from natural gas. Al says this war will have "a significant impact on natural gas prices, with reports indicating a severe disruption to global supply and a sharp immediate rise in costs." This means a jump in utility bills.

I believe President Trump was pressured into this war by the \$100 million Miriam Adelson supposedly gave to his campaign along with many, many millions donated to him and almost every member of Congress by other billionaires who want us to continue our one-sided foreign policy in the Middle East.

This policy was first put forth and advocated by so-called neo-conservatives who were liberal or left about everything but our

foreign policy in that part of the world. They have involved us in wars and had us dropping bombs in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya and now Iran.

The conservative columnist George Will once wrote that neocons were "magnificently misnamed" and that they were really "the most radical people in this city." (Meaning Washington, D.C.)

Conservative icon William F. Buckley Jr. first supported the war in Iraq and then, just two years later, regretted it. He told George Will there was "nothing conservative" about it, and there is nothing conservative about this war, either.

James Webb was a Marine hero in Vietnam, and his wife was an Army nurse there. He later became President Reagan's Secretary of the Navy. He opposed the wars in both Iraq and Iran. His son, Jimmy Webb, left Penn State early to enlist in the Marines many years ago because his family on both sides had fought in every U.S. war.

The son Webb said on the Tucker Carlson Show that he loves this country and that he was the most proud of his service in the Marines. But he said the Iran War was an "offensive war of choice" and that "we have gone to war for

another country to further their interests." He added that there is "no honor" in turning our military into "a mercenary force for another country."

We are over \$39 trillion in debt, already spending mega billions on this war, and Secretary Hegseth says he will need \$200 billion more on top of our trillion-plus defense budget. We are spending money we do not have and will have to inflate our way out.

Instead of following this neocon policy of war all the time, we should listen to Ronald Reagan. He said we should not go to war unless it was vital to our national interests, had clearly defined and realistic objectives, and had the support of the American people.

Then he added: "Even after all these other tests are met, our troops should be committed to combat abroad only as a LAST RESORT when no other choice is available."

Sen. Robert Taft was referred to as "Mr. Republican" in the late 1940s and early 1950s. He said: "No

foreign policy can be justified except a policy devoted without reservation or diversion to the protection of the liberty of the American people, with war only as the LAST RESORT and only to preserve that liberty." (Emphasis added)

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Publisher's Positions



**By Steve Hunley,
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Birthright Citizenship Should Be Banned

The Supreme Court of the United States is reviewing the executive order issued by President Trump, which restricts birthright citizenship. The executive order issued by President Trump reverses what has been a longstanding policy that the children of those crossing our borders illegally are citizens if they are born on US soil. Under the new executive order signed by President Trump, the children of illegal immigrants born on US soil would not automatically become American citizens, but instead would have the same immigration status as their parents.

The practice of granting citizenship to babies of illegal aliens is not the policy of most other nations in the world, nor is it the practice of other nations to have open borders for obvious reasons. Attorneys general

in Blue states have begun filing suit to challenge the executive order, as is to be expected in keeping with the policy of Democrat-Socialists in exalting the welfare and rights of illegal aliens above American citizens.

Trump's executive order would bring American policy on birthright citizenship in line with most of the countries in the civilized world, including France, Japan, China and India.

The 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was intended to protect the rights and citizenship of former slaves and their children. It was vital at the time it was added to our Constitution.

One legal scholar has succinctly addressed the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution as not affecting the citizenship of the offspring of "pregnancy tourists."

Democrat-Socialists, naturally, take the view that anyone who enters this country, legally or illegally, and has a baby, that child is an American citizen, with all the rights and benefits of citizenship. The Democrat-Socialists ignore one very important clause contained in the language of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which is "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." Many legal scholars believe that the particular clause as restricting automatic citizenship through

being born in the United States. There is not a shred of evidence that the intent of the Fourteenth Amendment was to allow the children of illegal aliens, those who broke our laws by entering our country illegally, citizenship.

Two professors, neither of whom is a conservative, have pointed out the very pertinent point that those aliens entering this country illegally have not given allegiance or loyalty to the United States of America, nor have they sworn to be obliged to follow the laws of our country. In fact, they got here by defying and breaking our laws.

The Democrat-Socialists in our country have repeatedly shown their disdain and disregard for the laws passed both locally, at the state level and nationally. They are in favor of replacing law enforcement officers with social workers, emptying out the prison population of rapists, murderers and other violent offenders - putting them back into society, and, in general, they do not feel anyone aside from those who oppose their political ideology should be punished for any reason. There is a reason why the Democrat-Socialists refuse to even speak the names of those who have suffered rape, assault or murder at the hands of someone who entered this country illegally. The reason they won't acknowledge the suffering

of real victims is that to do so would ruin their chosen narrative that all illegal aliens are good for this country. They save their sympathy for people like Alex Pretti and Renée Good, one of whom was carrying a loaded gun and interfering with law enforcement agents who were carrying out their duty by rounding up illegal aliens. They want to defund law enforcement; they favor defunding the police and ICE.

There should be no profit for the person committing an illegal act. The only way to enter this country is legally.

Has US NATO Membership Become A One-Way Relationship?

There is good reason to question whether continuing to be a member of NATO is in the best interests of the United States. There are several examples in history where countries allied with the US and members of NATO joined together to curb a would-be threat to the world. That was true in 1999 when allied countries joined the US in intervening to upset the ambitions of Slobodan Milosevic. And there have been times when the US has joined our allies in military endeavors, as was the case in Libya.

When they still taught history in high schools, most students know that it was

the United States that tipped the scales in favor of the Allied nations against Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Turkish Empire. At the time, Europe was largely governed by a series of kings and emperors, all of whom had some kind of family tie to one another. With the end of World War I, democracies sprang up in place of monarchies. History also shows it was the United States that provided the balance of power in defeating the fascist ambitions of Hitler's Nazi Germany by bringing to bear a combination of manpower and industrial capacity. It was the US who supplied the other allied powers, especially Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union with the absolute necessities of modern warfare: guns, tanks, airplanes, artillery and ammunition without which the war would have been lost to Nazi Germany.

The threat to life and liberty during World War II was very real, as were the atrocities that were appalling and unprecedented, not the least of which was the extermination of Jewish people. Americans had to make many very hard sacrifices to win the war and had to do without things so that American industry could be retooled to manufacture what was needed to win the war and supply our allies.

Americans have repeatedly sacrificed blood, treasure and our sons and

daughters to aid our allies. America joined the war after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan. That meant America called all hands on deck and boots on the ground. Americans united as never before to beat back those who would enslave others and those who had attacked us.

No country in the world has been as generous to those whom we have defeated during wars. No other country has rebuilt the countries which were conquered as has the United States. Ever since 1945, we have pledged to defend Europe, and we have carried by far the lion's share of the expenses in protecting Europe and our other allies. When our own allies will not extend the use of bases, refueling stations or allow us to fly over their airspace, the time has come to reconsider whether or not we wish to remain part of an alliance that has apparently become so one-sided. Treaties are supposed to be beneficial to all signatories. If Europe has largely surrendered to wokeism, then let them provide their own protection. Americans have also largely paid for the operation of the United Nations until President Trump forced our allies to pay a bigger share of the bill.

When our supposed allies turn their backs on us, we have no obligation to them any longer.

Who's running?

Cont. from page 1

Incumbent District 14 Representative Jason Zachary has no Republican primary opponent but will face the winner of the Democratic primary. Those candidates are Lindsay Honaker and Shivam R. Zaveri.

District 15's incumbent Representative Samuel McKenzie is a Democrat and has no primary or general election opponent.

Incumbent Republican Representative Michele Carringer has no primary opponent for her District 16 seat and will move on to face Democrat Eliza Boles.

The race for the 18th District representative seat has incumbent Elaine Davis facing two other Republicans in the primary: Brent Jones and Elliott Schuchardt. The winner faces Democrat Bryan Goldberg in November.

Incumbent Republican Dave Wright has no primary

opponent in the race for his District 19 seat and will face Democrat Jenny Fowler in the general election.

District 89 incumbent Justin Lafferty has no Republican primary opponent and will face Democrat William Debord in November.

Incumbent Democrat Gloria Johnson has no primary or general election opponent and will return to the Tennessee House for District 90.

The primary ballot will also contain state executive member candidates for both parties and a non-partisan mayoral race in Farragut, where Alexander Cain faces Louise Povlin. Farragut voters will also choose from Dian Hall or Joseph Ruffalo for Ward 1 alderman and Joe LaCroix or Greg Wiberley for the Ward 2 seat.

Happy Anniversary!



Mike and Lettie Steely celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary last week on April 1. Yes, on April Fool's Day. Both work at The Focus, and they have two sons and two grandchildren. They have been in the newspaper business for much of their married life and once owned and operated a weekly newspaper.

"I would be honored to have your support in the upcoming election."

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REPUBLICAN

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Happening this week:

Knoxville Botanical Garden Arboretum Dogwood Trail Walk Talk

April 8, 5:30-7 p.m.
2743 Wimpole Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37914

A springtime stroll along the Dogwood Walking Trail.

Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail Kickoff Celebration

April 11, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
CommonPlace Coffee + Community (6000 Chapman Hwy, Knoxville, 37920)
Food Trucks, Local Artists and Vendors, Music

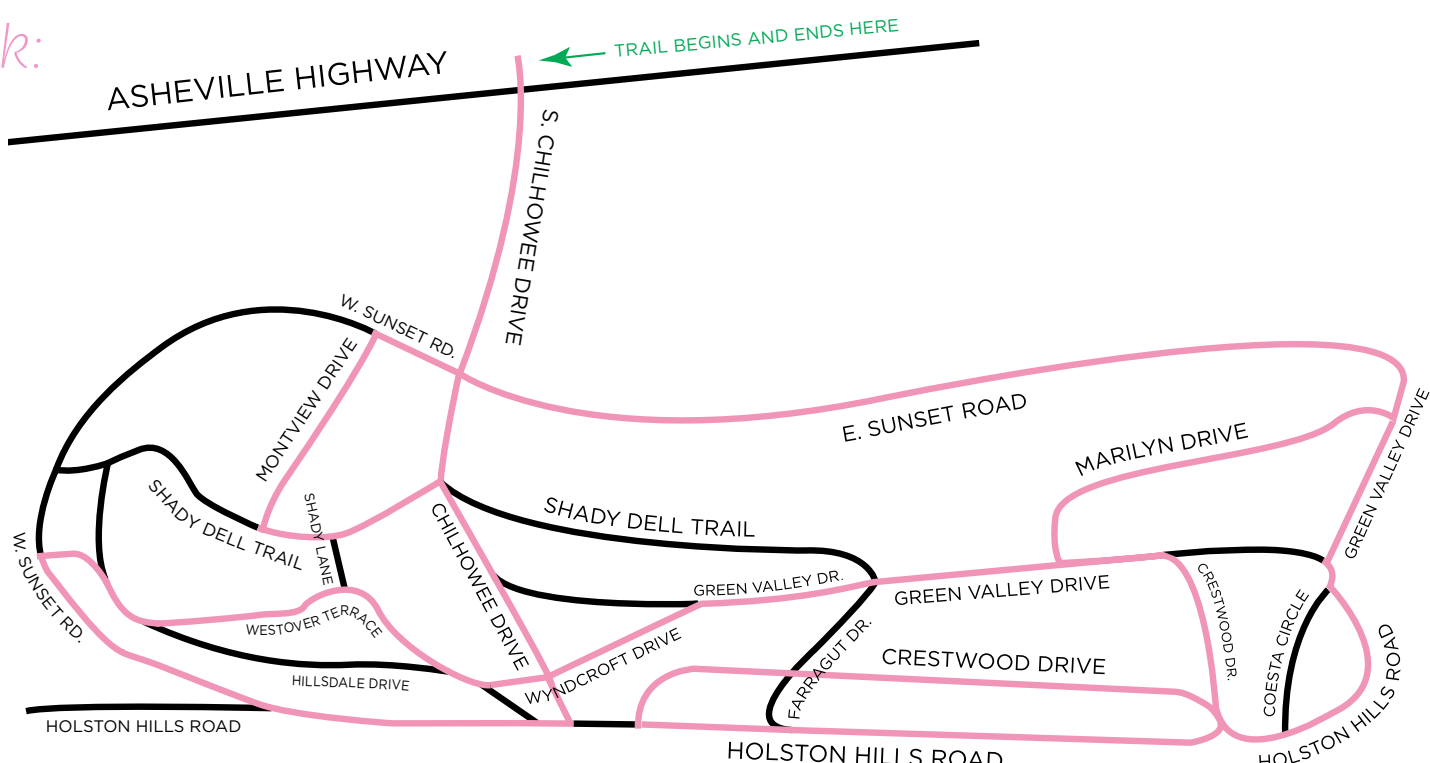
Talahi Plant Sale

April 11
Westminster Presbyterian Church (6500 S. Northshore Dr. Knoxville, 37919)

Benefitting the Knoxville Garden Club. Native plants dug straight from members' gardens along with herbs, trees, shrubs, annuals, homemade baked goods, and the ever-popular green elephant sale.

18th Annual Dogwood Arts Chalk Walk

April 11, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Downtown Knoxville/Market Square
More than 300 artists—from kindergartners to professionals—will transform downtown sidewalks into stunning works of art, making the city burst with color and creativity. Beyond the artwork, you can enjoy food trucks, a blooming beer garden, and free art.



HOLSTON HILLS OPEN GARDENS & CAMERA SITES

Bert & Jill Gill
Camera Site
5213 Green Valley Drive, 37914

Michael & Susie Saunders
Camera Site
5417 Holston Hills Road, 37914

Rita & Kelly Berrall
Camera Site
5224 Crestwood Drive, 37914

Jason & Maura Ward
Camera Site
5409 Crestwood Drive, 37914

Holston Hills Community Park
Open Garden
Chilhowee Drive
Hillside neighborhood park overlooking the pristine golf course features over 45 dogwood trees, large garden beds, stone benches and a fountain.

While you visit, be on the lookout for homes with 'Open Garden' and 'Camera Site' yard signs (open daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.).

Open Garden = get out of the car and enjoy a stroll through the garden

Camera Site = photos only, please do not enter the property

Happy Spring!
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Welcome to the Holston Hills Trail, established in 1956. Here, native dogwood trees abound! In recent years, many specimen trees have been added by the Garden Club of Holston Hills. This neighborhood features numerous beautifully designed gardens and homes of varying styles set on large lots. Look for dogwoods, various specimen trees, azaleas, rhododendrons, large oaks, poplars, maples and hickory trees, woodland gardens, and beds with drifts of tulips and daffodils.

The pink lines on Chilhowee Drive take you to a four-way stop and through the recently

restored 90-year-old stone entrance pillars to Holston Hills. The pillars are made of white and pink Tennessee marble, with slate roofs. They were designed by Barber and McMurry Architects to reflect the early stone homes and golf course built in 1925. The golf course was designed by Donald Ross, who is widely held in esteem as the best architect of golf courses in the world.

As you travel the neighborhood, enjoy abundant dogwoods, both native and kousa, magnificent azaleas, old growth trees, shade rock gardens and homes in a variety of styles dating back to the 1930s.

Since its opening in the late 1950s, Holston Hills Community Park has undergone many phases of development. Most recently added are new beds in the lower part of the park, dogwoods, crepe myrtles, magnolias and a fountain. Neighbors and friends of the park have also donated commemorative stones and benches. Come take a seat on one of these benches, stroll around the grounds, and enjoy views of the Holston Hills Golf Course.

Be sure to watch for the lovely brick 1930s home of Dr. Jimmy Milan on Green Valley Dr. and stop in to visit his Open Garden. The house features 'clinker' brick and a lovely garden

with outdoor pergola and fireplace. This street also features a number of stone and pink marble homes built in the 1930s and 1940s that are nestled among 1950s-60s brick colonials, ranch-style, and modern homes.

Along the trail at 1514 Cliffside Lane, you will see the community's oldest home which was built in 1925. Enjoy the beautiful surrounding homes including large stone and marble homes with lovely gardens, a southern colonial and a Gothic brick house all from the 1920s. This wonderful neighborhood offers panoramic river views and vistas of the rolling ridges of East Tennessee.

Council splits on response teams

Cont. from page 1
a car. She said that isolates them from participating in the life of the city. "It is not a luxury, it is a lifeline," she said of public transportation. Another speaker, Jake Studley, stated that some areas of the city are

underserved by the current system.

Members of Justice Knox came out in numbers wearing red T-shirts to show support for the expanded bus service. Justice Knox provides people with different faith, economic and racial backgrounds in Knox County with a vehicle to act together according to the scriptural mandate to "do justice." Among their goals is the improvement of public transportation.

Turning to other items, the council approved an agreement with Tartan Oil LLC to provide various types of fuel for city vehicles. The initial agreement is for one year with a two-year option. The first-year total cost is \$4,152,459.

Three different companies were awarded \$200,000 each for on-call services. They are Chris Haggard Plumbing LLC, Stooksbury Construction, Inc. and Southern

Construction Concepts Corporation. The contract with SPATO Energy Solutions for the Public Safety Fuel Island Project was increased by \$61,773 to a total of \$571,773. APAC-Atlantic Inc was awarded a citywide paving contract in the amount of \$404,155. The in lieu of tax payments for one year were set for KUB.

Several applications for grant requests were authorized for the police department. An additional \$150,535 was requested for the Victims of Crime Act. The council also gave approval for grant applications of \$1.6 million from the state for substance abuse advocacy and prevention, \$35,000 from the state for overtime funding for pedestrian safety campaigns, \$250,000 from the state to support traffic enforcement and community programs, and \$300,000 from the federal government for funding the department's forensic unit on gun crime investigations and prosecutions.

The council also approved \$18,000 in funding to several community agencies and organizations.

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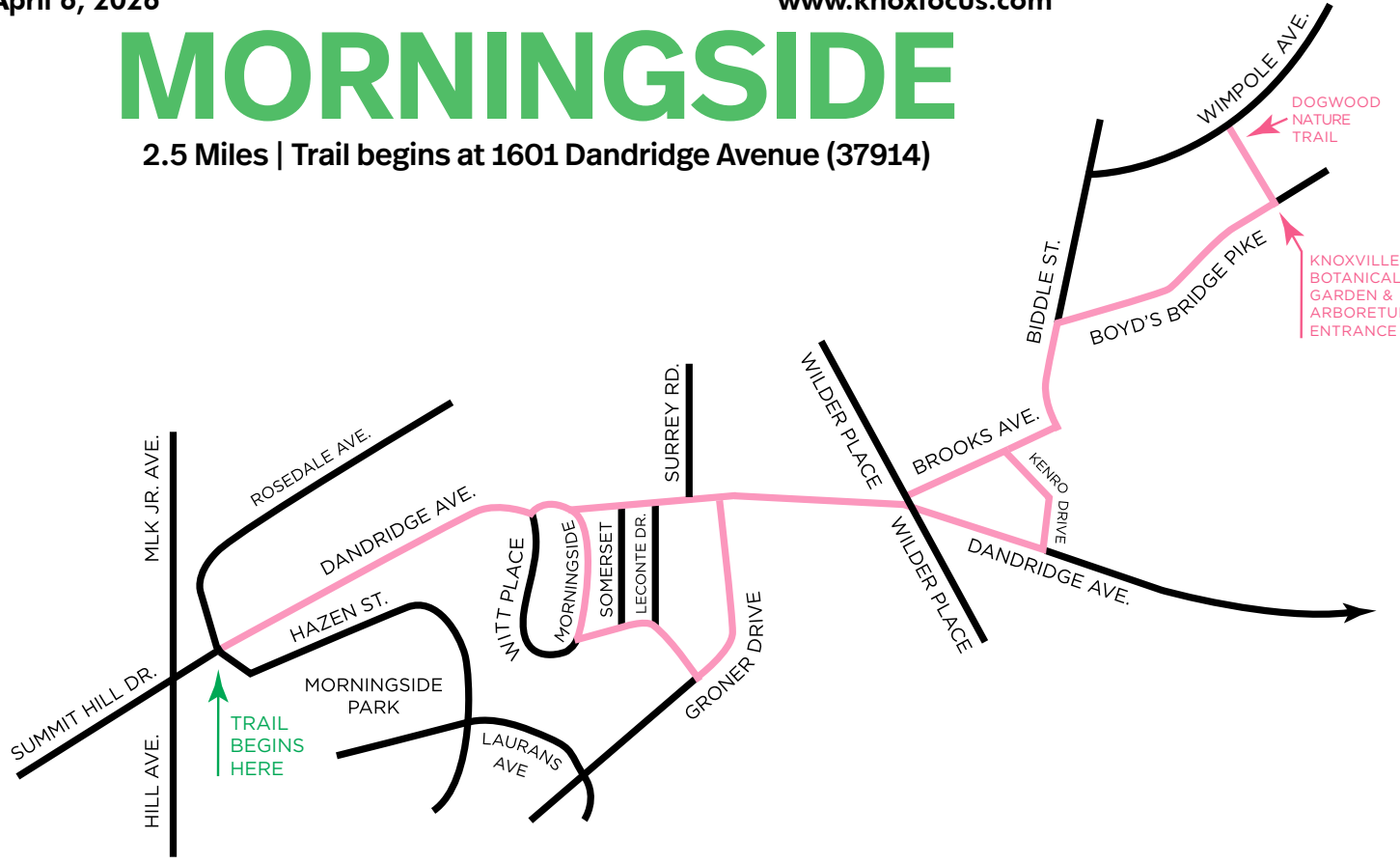
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Mabry Hazen House
Open Arboretum
1711 Dandridge Avenue, 37915
Overlooking downtown and the Smoky Mountains, this historic site preserves an 1858 Italianate house and one of the largest original family collections in the United States. Mabry's Hill features over 34 viewable dogwoods and a restoration project is underway to recover an additional grove of dogwoods. As a level 1 arboretum, the site conserves 32 species of trees including 90-year-old southern magnolias, ancient oaks and maples, and Carolina silverbells

Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
Open Garden
2743 Wimpole Avenue, 37914
Hours: Daylight
Over 2 miles of historic stone walls line the 47-acre property; impressive plant specimens of many varieties; 1.2-mile walking loop; community and children's vegetable gardens. Dogwood Nature Trail features over 60 varieties of dogwoods.

Just minutes from downtown, this Dogwood Trail features Morningside Park with gently rolling hills, large shade trees, and lots of open play space.

Morningside Park features an outstanding tournament-level 18-hole disc golf course, greenways, bicycling, skateboarding, soccer, playgrounds, shelters and fitness stations.

While in the park, visit the Alex Haley Heritage Square which is home to a 13-foot high bronze statue of author and Pulitzer prize winner Alex Haley. Designed by sculptor Tina Allen and cast in bronze in New York City, the statue weighs 4,200 pounds and Allen's depiction of Haley shows the author in a seated position, gesturing with an open hand as he reads from an open book in his lap.

Haley worked to

promote literacy, adult literacy especially, and participated in programs that encouraged young people to remain in school. Haley was born in 1921 in New York and served in the Pacific theater during WWII. Following the war, he became the first chief journalist within the Coast Guard. Retirement was short-lived as he became the senior editor for Reader's Digest Magazine. He became well-known for "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" and "Roots."

Follow the pink lines through the neighborhood and stop by the historic Mabry-Hazen House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic Mabry-Hazen Home overlooks downtown Knoxville, the Tennessee River and the Great Smoky Mountains. The museum's

impressive collection is a look back in time. The Italianate-style house built in 1858 showcases over 2,000 original artifacts and is home to an 8-acre site and arboretum, which features one of the largest old-grove of dogwoods in the area.

Just down the street is The Beck Cultural Exchange Center, a non-profit organization established in 1975 as a result of Knoxville's Urban Renewal projects. Beck is the storehouse of African American history and culture and is designated by the state as a primary repository of Black history and culture in East Tennessee.

The Beck Cultural Center is crafting a Cultural Corridor that will recognize African-American historical and cultural monuments that are located

throughout the greater community including the area demolished by Urban Renewal. A vibrant part of the Beck Cultural Corridor will be the only remaining ancestral home of one of the greatest modern painters of the twentieth century, Beauford Delaney. Beck is restoring this extraordinary piece of Knoxville history as the future Delaney Museum at Beck.

The trail continues on to the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, a 47-acre property that was home to the former Howell Nurseries and features walking trails, display gardens, a Secret Garden, over two miles of historic stone walls, and timeless buildings. Be sure to visit the Dogwood Nature Trail with 20 cultivars of native *Cornus florida* and dozens of other dogwood varieties.

Knoxville Botanical Garden Offers Free Weekly Story Thyme

The Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum's Story Thyme program returns this spring, offering families a free and engaging way to connect with nature, literacy, and hands-on learning. Beginning Tuesday, April 7, and running weekly through Oct. 31, the program invites young explorers and their families to gather every Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the Every Child Outdoors Garden, 2649 Boyds Bridge Pike. Register at www.knoxgarden.org/storythyme to dig into the fun!

Designed with preschool-aged children in mind, Story Thyme combines storytelling with interactive garden activities that spark curiosity and creativity. Each session gives children the opportunity to dig in the dirt, plant seeds, water growing plants, and even harvest what they've helped grow, bringing learning to life.

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Sheriff candidates discuss homelessness, immigration

Cont. from page 1

Jones, however, ended last week's event by admitting that all of the candidates would be good for Knox County.

"All four of these people here will do a good job," he said.

For Davis, the duty of a sheriff is a calling to protect and serve an extended family.

"The people of Knox County are my extended family, and it's a calling for me to protect them," Davis said.

Amburn said that a growing Knox County stands as a crossroads during this election cycle.

"We're on a crossroad for both the size of our county

and how it's growing," he said. "Law enforcement is a part of that."

Gibson, a former University of Tennessee football player, is not a native of Knoxville. But he said that he's found a home here and cherishes the opportunity to serve Knox County.

"I'm not from here," he said. "I came here to play ball in 1992 at the University of Tennessee. I love this county and I love this town."

On the issue of homelessness, Amburn and Davis both said the problem is bigger than the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

"It's not against the law to be homeless, and we can't arrest our way out of the problem of homeless,"

Amburn said.

He also noted that there are different degrees of homelessness.

"Homelessness is very complicated," Amburn said. "There's different degrees of people that are homeless, from people sleeping in their cars and still working jobs."

Davis said that he has sympathy for the homeless, but also adds that the rights of business owners must take top priority.

"I've got compassion for the homeless," he said. "But the rights of the homeless don't supersede the rights of the business owners and taxpayers of Knox County."

Jones said he's seen the

problem of homelessness grow since he went into county law enforcement.

"Five or seven years ago, you didn't see people on the side of the road," he said. "You see it in the news, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and that didn't happen overnight."

"It's a problem that's been let go, let go and let go."

Gibson agreed, but also claimed that not all of the homeless population is originally from Knox County.

"I remember when I first started, there were just a handful of homeless people, and we knew them all by name, even in the city," Gibson said. "We

know for a fact that they're

coming from other places.

"Other law enforcement agencies are bringing them here."

On the issue of immigration, the candidates explained their strategies to combat the problem.

Jones and Davis are looking to have the sheriff's office partner with ICE, while Amburn said that immigration enforcement cannot take center stage for the KCSO, and Gibson doesn't want to ask for federal assistance.

"We can send officers to federal training, and then when they come back, they have credentials just like a federal officer," Jones said.

Davis said he would be proactive in handling

immigration.

"We're going to work with ICE and be proactive in enforcing the law," he said.

Gibson doesn't necessarily want ICE to come to Knox County.

"I want to police my county, and I don't want federal authorities to have to come in here and have to police the county," he said.

Amburn said that he would emphasize balance in dealing with immigration.

He said he would work to back up ICE, but doesn't necessarily want a partnership with federal agents.

"We need to make sure that we keep that balance, that we can answer the normal calls for service," Amburn said.

Knox County Ethics Subcommittee finds fun in the details

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Ethics Subcommittee has been meeting for months to update the county's ethics policy, contained in a complicated multi-page document. Yet the small committee has been meeting the challenge, paragraph by paragraph, sometimes in a light-hearted manner.

Chairman Michael Bittel is tasked with heading the meetings and is assisted by members Krystal Gibson and Steven Goodpaster, Knox County Director of Organizational Development Marcus Kennedy and Deputy Law Director David Sanders. In their meeting last week, the subcommittee was joined by the regular Knox County Ethics Committee Chairman Debbie Stafford, who took part in the conversation as an audience member.

The subcommittee's topics in the meeting covered the code of conduct dealing with lobbying by elected officials after leaving office, conflicts of interest disclosures, nepotism and personal relationships.

The deep dive into the language of the codes might seem to be tedious and frustrating but the subcommittee members had fun with the details at times during the session.

At one point, Bittel and Sanders shared a fist bump to jovially celebrate agreement.

In dealing with when an ethics complaint reaches the ethics committee chair, the language was changed by Gibson to "shall be read into record."

"'Shall be' is just me being picky," Gibson said. Bittel asked her, "Shall I put it in there?" and Gibson replied, "You shall."

Stafford said the complaints regarding conflicts of interest by public officials should be stored in their personal files, but added that reading complaints aloud concerned her as she's "not comfortable with it being broadcast all over a public meeting."

Chairman Bittel's long moments of staring upward during the meeting were not moments of blank thought, but he was reading the large screen across the main assembly room,

which displayed the text of the code changes. Very few people were in the audience, but Bittel jokingly referred to the "3,000 people in the gallery."

At one point, when discussing intimate relationships, Sanders said, "Good luck trying to codify that."

Stafford told the subcommittee that county officials need to be held to ethical standards and added, "Right now (the bar) is pretty low."

One of the recommendations adopted in a previous subcommittee meeting included requiring a review of the Code of Ethics every five years. Stafford added about the subcommittee, "Our goal isn't to police it, but to define it." Sanders agreed that the goal of the regular Knox County Ethics Committee is to police moral or immoral behavior.

The subcommittee is getting close to wrapping up its work on the ethics policy. They will meet in May before presenting their proposed changes to the regular ethics committee. If approved or altered, the revised Code of Ethics then goes before the full Knox County Commission for adoption.



Knox County Mayoral Candidates Kim Frazier, Beau Hawk, Betsy Henderson and Larsen Jay prepare to take questions at a forum held early last week in West Knoxville.

Mayoral hopefuls talk qualifications, county's future at hospitality forum

Cont. from page 1
a business and I feel like I have the experience and qualifications to be the next mayor of Knox County."

"I want to serve the hard-working people of this county, who have reached out to me," Frazier said. "I own a small business."

All candidates vowed to keep taxes low and work to raise wages to keep up with the cost of living.

Henderson revisited her work with the school board.

"I began on the school

board in 2020, and I fought to keep our students in the classroom and out of masks during COVID," she said. "My parents were small business owners and my dad immigrated here from Greece."

"He came here by himself and went through Ellis Island for a better life. I will keep taxes low."

Hawk also pledged to keep taxes low.

"I'm not running on a tax increase because people are struggling enough," he said. "The working family, I don't want them to shoulder that growth."

"Wages have not been keeping up with the price of housing," he said.

All of the candidates addressed the rise of the cost of living in Knox County and since the event was hosted by the hospitality industry, the candidates addressed the concerns of hospitality workers.

Jay addressed the hotels and Airbnbs and the struggles they face as they are taxed differently.

"You have to have a level playing field if competition is the goal," he said. "You in the hospitality industry

are the reason that we're growing."

"We have to make sure that we're doing what we can to keep our workers here in Knox County."

Frazier professed a love for Knox County, but said that the county must address its infrastructure, including its roads.

"I promise to work on our infrastructure and improve our roads," she said. "I love Knox County."

"We're growing and we didn't get here in a day. We will continue to work on infrastructure."

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PHOTOS BY PETE GAWDA

The historic Eugenia Williams House and grounds have been restored for tours.

The Eugenia Williams House to open Saturday

By Pete Gawda

The estate of mysterious Coca-Cola heiress Eugenia Williams will soon be open to the public. The Renaissance-Revival style house contained ahead-of-its-time appliances and was built to blend in with the landscape.

Eugenia Williams was something of a recluse who kept to herself in the large house at 4848 Lyons View Pike. Her father, Dr. David Williams Jr., had purchased the distribution rights to bottled Coca-Cola within a 50-mile radius of Knoxville. In the early 1910s, he bought 24 acres on the Tennessee River. By 1916, he had built a two-story farmhouse there and had become a gentleman farmer, planting orchards on the property.

Eugenia Williams was born in 1900 and married Richard Gordon Chandler in 1920. Megan Robertson, director of the Eugenia Williams House, described the couple as “jet setters.” They traveled extensively and acquired a collection of automobiles, including a Duesenberg and a Hupmobile. In 1929, Dr. Williamson died, leaving Eugenia the sole heir to the property with the provision that none of it would revert to Chandler if they divorced.

The couple did divorce in 1936. They had no children, and Eugenia never remarried. Much of her later life remains

a mystery. She was very reclusive and was a divorced woman in a very conservative town.

Eugenia was an avid horsewoman and had a stable built on the property sometime after the divorce in the late 1930s. The cost of the stable caused it to be known by reporters as the priciest “mule barn” ever built in Knoxville. That stable can be seen on walking tours of the property.

Eugenia then had her father’s farmhouse torn down and built the existing 10,600 square foot house, which was completed in 1941. It was designed by local architect John Franz Staub and has ornate ironwork, large garden windows and classical Greek motifs.

“The house is absolutely built to entertain,” Robertson told The Focus. The house has a large dining room with the original crystal chandelier and two kitchens with state-of-the-art appliances. These appliances include what is thought to be the first built-in automatic dishwasher in Knoxville, a large commercial-type refrigerator and an electric towel dryer. The service area originally had two bedrooms for live-in domestic staff, although there is no record of such employees. However, in spite of all that, there is no evidence of any social gatherings being held there.

Continue on page 2



Above, Megan Robertson, director of the Eugenia Williams House, stands in the entrance hall. Below, This ironwork on the stair railing at the Eugenia Williams House is the creation of Knoxville architect John Franz Staub. The Eugenia Williams House has the original parquet floors.



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Grand Opening Celebration April 11

10:00 a.m. - Gates Open: Overflow parking for this event will be available at 4823 Old Kingston Pike, see below for details.

10:30 a.m. - Opening Ceremony: The official opening of the property will be marked with music and short remarks in the front motor court of the House.

11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Guided Tours: Tours of the House will be offered every half hour on a first-come, first-served basis. The line for guided tours will be in the front motor court of the House. No pre-reservations are required for this special event, but capacity is limited.

Interior access will typically be available only through ticketed guided tours and cultural events. The April 11 complimentary tours offer a rare opportunity to experience the restored interior at no cost.

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Music on the Verandah: Enjoy live music performed by a string quartet on the back Verandah. Bring a picnic blanket and listen to a varied repertoire of classical and contemporary favorites in a lovely outdoor setting. Performances will occur throughout the day. Stay for as little or as long as you like!

Hydration Stations and Pop-Up Coffee Shop: Complimentary water and lemonade will be available throughout the day in the parking lot and at the Stable Terrace. A pop-up coffee bar with beverages for purchase, operated by Old City Coffee Catering, will also be available in the front motor court of the house.

Parking: Due to the historic nature of the property, on-site parking is limited to 48 spaces. A charming vintage trolley from Knoxville Style will shuttle guests to and from overflow parking, located at the west end of the parking lot at 4823 Old Kingston Pike; attendants will be available to assist guests.

For more information about accessibility, please call (865)606-0802 or email info@eugeniawilliams-house.org.

Final shuttle departs at 4:30 p.m.

Gates close at 5:00 p.m.



Eugenia Williams had state-of-the-art appliances placed in her two kitchens such as an automatic dishwasher, a large commercial-type refrigerator and an electric towel dryer.

The Eugenia Williams House to open Saturday

Cont. from page 1

The house is designed to make the best of natural lighting and cross ventilation with large windows extending to the floor and no interior rooms. None of the furniture is original; however, the house has the original walnut parquet floors and original ironwork on the stair railings. A three-car basement garage has electric door openers.

"The house is built like a bunker," Robertson said. The structure and sub-floors are made of steel and concrete.

In 1983, Eugenia entered a nursing home. The house remained

vacant until she died in 1998, when it was willed to the University of Tennessee in hopes it would become the president's home. That did not come to pass and the house remained vacant until it was purchased in 2020 by the Aslan Foundation, which supports the arts, historic preservation and open spaces.

After a year of research, the foundation began an extensive restoration process on the house and grounds. "We have tried to maintain the historic integrity of the grounds," Robertson said. She said this will not be a typical

museum house with the furnishings viewed from behind velvet ropes. People will be able to sit on the furniture.

In addition to public tours, she said the house will be used for meetings of such civic groups as the Knoxville History Project, the Knoxville Opera and the Knoxville Garden Club.

A total of 1.25 miles of walking trails winds through the estate, which has been landscaped with trees, shrubs and perennials. Invasive plants have been removed, allowing for the restoration of stone paths and trails. New footbridges have been built featuring

seating made from fallen trees on the property.

After the grand opening on Saturday, April 11, tours will be conducted on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. each day. Tours can be booked through Knoxville Walking Tours by calling (865)309-4522, and the cost is \$25. On those three days, the grounds will also open for people to walk the trails and enjoy the natural beauty of the estate for free from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.eugeniawilliams-house.org.



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The Gentleman From Texas

Morris Sheppard

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Contrary to what we are led to believe, not everything is big in Texas. Morris Sheppard, who served more than 38 years in Congress for the Lone Star State, was a diminutive 5'4. Yet in fractious Texas, where bare-knuckled politics were commonplace, Sheppard never lost an election. Today, Morris Sheppard is largely remembered, when he is remembered at all, for his sponsorship of the

Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution. That is the amendment that imposed prohibition on the country. A reporter for TIME magazine once described Morris Sheppard as a "small, prim man with greying hair and narrow eyes." A genial man of great sincerity, Sheppard was respected by even those who sharply disagreed with him. Morris Sheppard was also a man of faith and a devout Methodist. When President Theodore Roosevelt removed "In God We Trust" from a series of special coins through executive order, then-Congressman Sheppard loudly objected. Sheppard took to the floor of the House, where he pointed to what he believed was the "divine purpose" in the formation of the United States of America. Later that same year, Congress passed a law that permanently established the motto on America's coinage.

John Morris Sheppard was the oldest of seven children and named for his father, John Levi Sheppard, who was an attorney, judge and congressman. The future senator's mother, Margaret, whose family gave Sheppard his name, was a direct descendant of Robert Morris, who had signed the Declaration of Independence.

Morris Sheppard followed in the footsteps of his father all the way to the halls of Congress. The younger Sheppard first followed his father into law school and the two practiced law together in Texarkana. Judge Sheppard was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1898 and reelected twice. The 50-year-old congressman died on October 11, 1902. Congressman Sheppard's health had deteriorated steadily over the course of a year as he suffered from Bright's Disease. The elder Sheppard tried to restore his health by visiting several hot springs and just the week before he died, he was joined by his son, Morris, in traveling to Mineral Wells, where he hoped the waters would restore him.

With the death of any politician, speculation begins with the incumbent's last breath. Immediately, that speculation centered largely upon 28-year-old Morris Sheppard. The young

attorney ran in the special election to determine the nominee of the Democratic Party, which at the time was tantamount to an election. Morris Sheppard proved to be a compelling speaker and wore the mantle of his father's popularity in the district quite well. The election returns gave Sheppard a healthy majority over several opponents.

Morris Sheppard's home life was happy. The congressman married Lucile Sanderson, a Texas belle from a well-to-do family from Texarkana. The couple had three daughters together.

Congressman Morris Sheppard was routinely reelected by his district every two years. Sheppard was still serving in the House of Representatives when he was elected to the United States Senate on January 29, 1913, by the Texas legislature. In fact, the state legislature elected Sheppard to the U.S. Senate twice; once to complete the term of office of Senator Joseph Weldon Bailey, who had resigned, which expired on March 3, 1913. The Texas legislature also elected Morris Sheppard to serve a six-year term beginning on March 4, 1913. Sheppard had run in a 1912 preference primary, which the Texas state legislature honored. It was the closest election of Morris Sheppard's long career. The congressman won the Democratic nomination by 36,231 votes out of 320,331 ballots cast.

Senator Sheppard's close attention to the people back home paid handsome dividends at the ballot box. When he sought reelection in 1924, Sheppard easily swept past two competitors to win quite nearly 65% of the vote. Sheppard did even better in 1930 when he won more than 71% in the Democratic primary. No less than five opponents entered the Democratic primary in 1936 to oppose the veteran senator for renomination, including a sitting congressman. Once again, Texans gave Senator Sheppard a resounding victory, winning almost 65% of the vote against the entire field. At the time of his death, Sheppard had already announced he intended to seek reelection to another six-year term in 1942. Morris Sheppard's goal was to serve longer in Congress than any other person.

Senator Sheppard was one of the most conscientious of the Senate's members, keeping a little black book in which he kept the details of his daily attendance. The average was less than a day's absence per year over a period of 38 years, a remarkable tribute to Sheppard's diligence and good health. The secret to



Lester Barlow (left) putting cotton in the ears of Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas before a demonstration of a 1,000 pound bomb in 1940.

Morris Sheppard's personal popularity and political success in a state as vast as Texas was very simple. The senator was always ready to do whatever he could to help Texas and Texans. TIME referred to Sheppard as a "typewriter Senator" who answered every scrap of mail he received. Morris Sheppard envisioned himself as less a statesman than as the emissary of Texas to Washington, D.C. He was there to do whatever he could for his state and his people.

In keeping with his diligence and attention to his work, Sheppard's service on the Senate's Military Affairs Committee made him one of a very rare species: the true civilian expert on military matters.

The proudest achievement of Sheppard's time in Congress was certainly August 1, 1917, the day when the United States Senate made national prohibition a part of the country's Constitution. Since that time, Senator Morris Sheppard got to his feet and sought recognition from the Senate's presiding officer each January 16, the date the prohibition amendment took effect. Senator Sheppard spoke every January 16 to commemorate the anniversary of the occasion. Normally, the senator favored a gray or blue sack suit, but every January 16, Sheppard appeared on the floor of the Senate in full formal dress, which was referred to as "morning attire." Morning attire for men consisted of a morning coat, which is a coat with tails, a waistcoat or vest, and striped trousers. Morning dress usually only occurs for some weddings or governmental functions involving royalty or high government officials. I recall many years ago, President Ronald Reagan receiving Emperor Hirohito of Japan in morning attire.

The Texan, as a schoolboy, had studied physiology and saw a picture of an alcoholic's stomach illustrated in lurid colors, which he never forgot. Unlike many of his colleagues who espoused the cause of prohibition, Morris Sheppard lived and died as a teetotaler. Sheppard

had helped mustachioed Andrew Volstead author the prohibition act, but speak-easies flourished all across the country and the illegal sale of alcohol became big business and saw the rise of gangsters like Al Capone, who made millions. Oddly, it was Congressman Volstead who seemed to catch the worst of it. Few took the time to denounce the affable and kindly Senator Sheppard. Unlike Volstead, Sheppard was not a zealous fanatic. Morris Sheppard simply believed alcoholic beverages were horrible and might as well be poisonous. As TIME once noted, "Texas went right on drinking and re-electing Morris Sheppard."

Senator Sheppard had been greeted by a committee of one thousand marchers representing prohibitionists who presented the Texan with a resolution, which was the suggested language for an amendment to the Constitution. Morris Sheppard carried the resolution from the east entrance of the Capitol building to the Senate, where he introduced it later that very day. It took several tries before Sheppard was successful and was hailed as the "Father of the Eighteenth Amendment."

On January 16, 1933, Senator Sheppard rose not to laud prohibition but to attempt to stem the tide of its repeal. Pulling out his gold pocket watch, opening it and laying it on his desk on the Senate floor, the senator told his colleagues, "Ten years ago, lacking six days, I addressed the Senate on the subject of the proceedings of the League of Nations. Now I propose to take up where I left off..." It was the beginning of a one-man filibuster to keep the Senate from considering a resolution to repeal the prohibition amendment. Vice President Charles Curtis sat glumly at the rostrum of the Senate as the senator from Texas spoke while other senators fled from the chamber.

The will of the voters had been expressed clearly by the recent election. TIME noted the "spectacle of one little Dry defying the U.S. electorate." Sheppard spoke until 10 p.m. that night before

unexpectedly picking up his pocket watch from his desk and dropping into his seat, exhausted. The following day, the Senate voted to hear the repeal resolution. Many southern Democrats, including the new majority leader, Joe Robinson of Arkansas, had long held dry views, but the platform of the national Democratic Party called for repeal of prohibition. In truth, they would have likely ignored it had they not believed it was also the view of the country. It was the beginning of the end of a failed experiment.

Three years earlier, Senator Sheppard had boasted, "There's as much chance of repealing the 18th Amendment as there is for a hummingbird to fly to Mars with the Washington Monument tied to its tail." Sheppard must have caught his breath as the hummingbird and the Washington Monument whizzed past his head, as his home state of Texas became the twenty-third state to ratify the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Even the voters in Sheppard's own Texarkana favored repeal.

Senator Morris Sheppard was working especially hard as chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, spending as many as eighteen hours in committee, in his office, and on the floor of the Senate. The great majority of Americans were highly suspicious of foreign entanglements and clearly wished to avoid being involved in yet another European war. Reflecting those same opinions were numerous congressmen and senators who were labeled "isolationists," although a better description might well be "non-interventionists." As the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, it fell to Senator Morris Sheppard to defend on the Senate floor all measures coming out of that committee for American armed forces and preparedness. Sheppard studied hard to be able to answer any questions put to him by critics of any bill coming out of the Military Affairs Committee.

The Second World War had begun in late 1939,

and the Japanese Empire was becoming ever more aggressive in the Far East and its war with China still raged. America faced the challenge of readying its armed forces for whatever might come, and Senator Sheppard worked even harder, taking care of his people and working on preparedness for his country. The overwork eventually caught up with the little man from Texas. Senator Sheppard suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on April 4, 1941. Sheppard remained conscious until later that day. The senator was treated by his physician at home until he was finally taken to Walter Reed Hospital. Senator Morris Sheppard died on April 9, 1941, aged 65.

President Franklin Roosevelt paid handsome tribute to Senator Sheppard. "Courteous, kindly, he had, besides superb courage, enthusiasm and great charm of manner." Roosevelt said the senator refused to pay attention to the warnings of doctors and friends that he was "overtaxing his physical resources and he has gone to his account with every obligation to duty fulfilled." President Roosevelt was likely sincere in saying Sheppard had been his friend, and his regret at his loss was genuine.

Sheppard's grandson, Connie Mack III, would also serve in the United States Senate, and his great-grandson, Connie Mack IV, would also serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Both represented the State of Florida and were Republicans.

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This Changes Everything

We are now past Easter. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ all stand as the single most important event in human history. No moment has carried greater weight, no act has produced



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist
Church Senior Pastor

everything the world had ever known: for the past, the present and the future. It was not merely the death of an ordinary man, but the divine exchange of righteousness for sin, hope for despair, and life for death.

The cross was not an accident of history; it was the fulfillment of eternity's plan. In His death, Jesus bore the full weight of humanity's sin. In His burial, He entered into the silence and finality that sin demands. And in His resurrection, He shattered the grip of death itself, declaring once and for all that sin does not have the final

word. The empty tomb is not just a theological claim; it is the cornerstone of all Christian hope.

What makes this event even more compelling is what followed. A small, seemingly insignificant group of men and women, comprised of fishermen, a tax collector and ordinary mothers raising children, became the carriers of an extraordinary message. They did not build a movement on ideology or philosophy; they built it on a Person they had seen, touched and watched die and then saw alive again. The resurrection was not a theory to them; it was reality. And it changed them in every way you could imagine forever.

These were not people prone to delusion or fantasy. Many of them had fled in fear when Jesus was arrested. Yet something happened that transformed cowards into bold witnesses. They preached in the face of persecution, stood firm under threat, and refused to deny what they had seen. Their radical profession would ultimately cost many of them

their lives.

History records the sobering end of these early disciples: Peter was crucified, upside down by his own request. Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross. James, the brother of John, was executed by the sword. John was exiled after enduring persecution. Philip was crucified in Egypt. Bartholomew was martyred. Thomas was speared for his faith after carrying the message far from home. Matthew was slain. James, son of Alphaeus, was martyred. Thaddeus was killed. Simon the Zealot was also martyred. These were not men who died for a myth; they were witnesses who gave everything because they knew the truth.

Their sacrifice forces a question upon us: what do we truly believe about Jesus? It is one thing to acknowledge the resurrection; it is another to live as though it changes everything. If we really do believe what we Christians say that we believe concerning Jesus, our lives with Jesus should look different from our lives before Jesus.

The resurrection does not simply inform our beliefs; it transforms our lives. It reshapes our priorities, redefines our purpose, and redirects our affections. The same power that raised Christ from the dead now calls us to walk in newness of life. That means our connection to the church is not casual but committed. Our parenting is not reactive but intentional. Our love for others is not conditional but sacrificial.

We may never be called to lay down our physical lives, but we are absolutely called to lay down our lives daily. Union with Jesus demands more than admiration. It requires surrender. Every facet of who we are should bear the mark of His resurrection power. Because when death was defeated, everything changed, and when Jesus truly takes hold of a life, nothing stays the same.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ truly does change everything.

History Hour at Farragut Museum

Tuesday, April 21

History Hour at the Farragut Museum will be Tuesday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m., featuring Col. Ed Lowe, author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost." He will speak on James Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign in 1863-1864 including The Battle of Campbell Station.

Colonel Ed Lowe (USA, Ret.) served 26 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, with deployments to Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He attended North Georgia College and has graduate degrees from California State University, Dominguez Hills, the U.S. Army War College, U.S. Command & General Staff College, and Webster's University. He is an adjunct professor for the University of Maryland/Global Campus and Elizabethtown College, where he teaches history and government.

He resides in Ooltewah, TN, with his wife, Suzanne, and has two daughters.

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL

Lady Admirals shut out Bearden to remain undefeated in league



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Farragut pitcher Hudson Bradford delivers a pitch in the Lady Admirals' 10-0 win at Bearden on Tuesday. Bradford tossed a five-hit shutout against the Lady Bulldogs.

By Ken Lay

A perfect District 4-4A record remained intact for the Farragut High School softball team Tuesday as it notched an impressive victory in a rivalry game.

The Lady Admirals (16-4 overall, 7-0 in the district) made the short trip up Kingston Pike to Bearden and made quick work of the resident Lady Bulldogs in a 10-0 victory at Kim Hazelwood Field.

Farragut pounded out 10 hits and took advantage of five defensive miscues by the Lady Bulldogs

on its way to nabbing a five-inning win. Bearden pitcher Tegan Castor also walked five Lady Admirals.

Farragut started fast, scoring two runs in the top of the first inning. The Lady Admirals scored both of their runs with two outs in the frame.

Hallie Grace Johnson had an RBI single that plated Logan Jameson with the first run of the contest. Johnson came home on when Rylee Raby reached on an error.

Castor retired the Lady Admirals in order only once, and that was in the fourth

inning.

In the second, Farragut added three more runs and extended its advantage to 5-0.

Raby, who went 3-for-4 with a double and three RBIs, had a two-run single and Jameson scored when Dajah Means reached on an error.

Farragut plated two more runs in the top of the third frame. Taylor Albright reached on an error, scoring Callie Brown and Raby drove in another run with a single, bringing home Albright, who was 2-for-3. She scored three runs.

In the fifth, Lex Shrader had a scoring single, and Camryn Schrader drove in a run with a sacrifice fly.

Farragut pitcher Hudson Bradford posted a solid performance in the circle as she hurled a five-hit shutout. She went five innings. She had nine strikeouts in the contest.

The Admirals were aggressive on the bases as they stole six bases. They also had just one extra-base hit.

"We put pressure on them and we did a good job running the bases. I did get
Continue on page 2

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Concord Christian freshman Maurice Smith (center) wins his heat in the 100-meter dash with an 11.98 time in Thursday's Roadrunner Invitational.

A couple of Lions who are fast in track and football

By Steve Williams

Two young Concord Christian sprinters are on a fast track in two sports. Freshmen Dasani Moulden and Kohbe Ward took first place in the 100 and 200-meter dashes, respectively, Thursday in the Roadrunner Invitational at Austin-East.

Moulden was timed in 10.97 seconds in the 100 and Ward 22.27 in the 200. Both are currently ranked No. 1 in the state. Ward also posted an

11.12 time in the 100, while Moulden ran the 200 in 22.72.

The speed these two have also are helping Coach Steve Matthews' Lions in football.

Track coaches Steve Prince and Ginger Harless said they don't mind sharing the talented student-athletes either.

"I was expecting to go a little faster," said Dasani after winning the 100. "But I've got to deal with it and come back next week and go a little faster. Hopefully, if I can, I'll drop

down to 10.6. That's a good time especially for a freshman. That will just mean I'm getting faster."

Dasani, 5-6 and 148 pounds, was a receiver and cornerback in his freshman season in football last fall.

"I really love football," he said. "It's like my life right now, so that's the one I like the most. I've dedicated my time to it."

When asked what was the key to his win in the 200, Ward said: "I just had to get out of the blocks and get around the

curve. Once I got to the straightaway I felt pretty good and could get the win. I just got my knees up and made sure my form was well. And I got the win."

Despite his time in the 200, Kohbe says "I focus on the 400. That's my main event. I want to go to college for that one. I run a 50.08 right now, so I'll try to get under 50 next."

Ward, who is bigger than Moulden, is the quarterback on Concord's football team.

Continue on page 4

SOUTHERN LEAGUE BASEBALL

Smokies open season with 8-6 win over Barons

By Steve Williams

Knoxville fans got a triple treat Friday night at Covenant Health Park with their Smokies winning the 2026 season opener with a 9-6 victory over defending SL champion Birmingham plus 3 1/2 hours of baseball and post-game fireworks, too.

Returning Manager Lance Rymal saw his team take a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first on a 3-run homer by Jefferson

Rojas and increase its margin to 5-1 in the second before the team from the Magic City put up a five spot in the top of the fourth to go ahead 6-5.

The Smokies see-sawed back ahead 8-6 with three more runs in the fifth. A double by Ariel Armas added an insurance run in the bottom of the eighth.

Jordan Nwogu went 3 for 5 and scored one run for Knoxville. The Smokies' **Continue on page 4**



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

The Knoxville Smokies play Birmingham Friday night in the second season of the Covenant Health Park in downtown Knoxville. The Smokies won the season opener, 9-6.



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CAREACTER STAR ATHLETES FOR 2025-26

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL

Halls notches comeback win over Lady Beavers in crucial district game

By Ken Lay

Halls High School softball coach Bryan Gordon was the first to admit that his team didn't play its best game Thursday night.

But he was happy that his squad found its way into the win column as it played a crucial District 3-4A home game against Karns.

"I thought we really looked tired tonight," Gordon said after the Lady Devils came from behind to notch a 4-2 victory over the Lady Beavers at Halls High School. "Take nothing away from Karns.

"They played great, but I thought we looked lethargic tonight."

Halls (12-3 overall, 7-0 in the district) fell behind early as the Lady Beavers' Ella Swafford hit a solo home run with two out in the first inning.

Karns (7-7, 3-3) held the lead until Halls scored twice in the bottom of the fourth frame. The Lady Devils came up with three extra-base hits and scored two runs in the inning.

Halls began its rally with one out when Harper Bales doubled. She came home on a triple by Adrie Johnston. Johnston then came home on a double by Mackenzie Baker, making the score 2-1. The Lady Devils could've had more as they left the bases loaded

as Swafford, who relieved starter Emma Conover in the circle, recorded the

third out when she induced a line-drive out from pinch hitter Mallory Smithers.

Karns tied the contest, 2-2, in the top of the sixth when Amaris Clark's RBI double plated Reese Law, who reached on a single with one out.

The Lady Devils took the lead for good when they scored twice in the bottom of the inning.

Baker led off the frame with a triple before Molly Overton walked and stole second. Baker scored on a sacrifice fly, making the score 3-2. One out later, Overton came home on an RBI single by Yallee Cooper.

Gordon lauded his team's resilience against the Lady Beavers.

"These kids are never out of it," Gordon said. "They always battle and they always keep fighting."

Gordon gave his team a three-day weekend and a break from the game.

But the Lady Devils didn't rest for long.

"We have a big week," Gordon said, "We've got Central (Tuesday) and then we play Powell on Thursday and nothing is easy in this district."

Karns coach Jordan Sarat was pleased despite the loss.

"We're still piecing things together," she said. "I'm excited to see what we can do in May because softball is a tournament sport."

Lady Admirals shut out Bearden

Cont. from page 1

one runner thrown out, but we're going to be aggressive," Farragut coach Nick Green said. "We didn't club them like I would've liked, but we had hits and we had walks.

"And we took advantage of some things that they gave us."

Bearden's Jenna Gonzales and Bailey Hauge collected two hits apiece, while Banjo Dunn doubled in the bottom of the first

inning for the Lady Bulldogs, who dropped to 4-7 overall and 2-5 in the district.

Farragut continued its winning ways Wednesday with another 10-0 win at Maryville.

Taylor Wolfgram hit a home run for the Lady Rebels, while Johnson and Raby both doubled in the contest between the two former district rivals.

Johnson also pitched a five-hit shutout. She walked three and struck out five.

Examples of 'good character' displayed during girls basketball season

AT CENTRAL HIGH

setting a strong standard for others to follow.

"Whether it's helping a teammate understand something in school or offering guidance during practice, Khloe's work ethic, positive attitude, and willingness to help others make her an invaluable part of our team. Her contribution to the team did not always show up on the stat sheet, but the team really relied on her for consistency, and she brought that. She is a joy to be around, always smiling and brightening the room she walks in."

AT FULTON HIGH

"Englynn Douglass, a sophomore, is a standout example of character and leadership," said Coach Tony Cooper. "A 4.0 student and a top performer in girls' basketball and flag football, she consistently leads by example both on and off the court."

"Englynn was also selected to participate in the HOSA State Leadership Conference in Chattanooga, recognizing her excellence in academics and leadership. She never looks for attention or credit and is the same steady, positive presence whether things are going well or not."

"Englynn is respectful to coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents, and understands that true leadership is shown through actions, not words. Her work ethic and character truly represent what Fulton High School is all about."

Compiled by Steve Williams

AT CATHOLIC HIGH

"Khloe Cook, a sophomore guard on our basketball team, is a player who consistently leads by example," said Coach Micah Scheetz. "Despite being an underclassman, she stepped into a leadership role this season when the team needed it most, showing maturity and commitment beyond her years."

"Khloe is a great teammate who always puts the team first, encouraging and supporting those around her both on and off the court. She works extremely hard in the classroom and in the gym,



'She consistently demonstrated respect toward officials, coaches and opponents throughout the season even in high pressure moments.'

- Central Coach Lebrandon Marie on Avery Brewer



'Her contribution to the team did not always show up on the stat sheet, but the team really relied on her for consistency, and she brought that.'

- Catholic Coach Micah Scheetz on Khloe Cook



'Her work ethic and character truly represent what Fulton High School is all about.'

- Fulton Coach Tony Cooper on Englynn Douglass



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- HVA: Gracie Edwards, MaiMai Ngom, Brynn Williams

- FBA: Addie Mae Whitaker, Ashlyn Mercer, Sydney Pytel

- GCA: Sarah Beth Butler, Charli Pancratz, Sammi Dewitt

- KARNS: Kaylei Stephens, Kate Kramer, Macy Price

- FULTON: Zaria Anderson, Sha'Nary Cobb, Englynn Douglass

- HALLS: Mollie Addison Turner, Erynn Brutton, Kadence Fisher

- POWELL: Amberlin Whiteside, Peyton Fielden, Erin Gooch

- SEYMOUR: Bailey Tidwell, Makenna Sharp, Kali Fisher

- TKA: Olivia Loveday, Jade Dabrowski, Cheyenne Knight

- SOUTH-DOYLE: Sarah Brunson, Olivia Headrick, Makenzi Goddard

- WEBB: Meeyah Green, Kyndall Mays, Zahnyah Rockett

- TSD: Hanna Collins, Janette Ballard, Yami Lombera Abarca

- WEST: Charleigh Freeman, Caroline Smith, MJ Rouse

Thoughts on retiring numbers

There are times that someone posts something on the internet that just cries out for historic perspective. One thing is certain.



By Tom Mattingly

You talk about "retiring numbers," and you get all kinds of reasons to do so... or not do so. You also get an occasional piece of revisionism and some first-class controversy.

Here's one example, a 2012 post called "Sammy Burklow's Revenge." It was written in the days when the chat boards were full of reasons John Majors' Tennessee jersey No. 45 deserved to be retired... or not.

Here's his thinking, highlighting his opposition to honoring that famous jersey.

It was 187 words and apparently quite an effort to put forth.

"Al Wilson was a nice player, but you can't even begin this conversation without beginning with Sufferidge [sic], our only 3 time consensus All American, and the player Neyland acknowledged as the greatest.... As for John



"The Stop": The most famous defensive play in Tennessee football history is still under intense discussion among Vol fans more than 60 years later.

Majors, there are about 90 numbers that should be retired before his. John Majors was never for anyone but John Majors. He got himself fired, despite the University doing everything it could to retain him, and then trashed the University for a generation." There's more.

"The most shameful thing he ever did was right here, when he tried to steal the glory from Charlie Severance and Wayne Grubb for 'The Stop' on Billy Cannon, by implying that his brother, Bill, was an integral part of that play, instead of just a mop up. Ask anyone who played

for Majors, they'll tell you a real Vol, Coach George "Bad News" Cafego, should have his number retired 100 times before Majors. Not to mention Dodd and McEver (who Neyland considered the greatest back he ever coached)."

This was an amazing piece of writing, full of sound and fury, but not much else, going in several different directions at once.

I'll pause to take a deep breath.

I haven't read anywhere in all the writings on Tennessee football history that John Majors somehow "tried to steal the glory" from Severance and Grubb after the events of that famous afternoon, Nov. 7, 1959. I missed that one, somehow. Maybe somewhere there was a source for that comment.

Maybe not. For the record, what really did happen? There are several avenues open to gain insight on what transpired.

You could actually watch the film of the play and listen to George Mooney's call and make your own determination. You could ask one of the few remaining people who were at the game. You could have also remembered John Ward's

premature call on the stadium public address system that day, when Ward, by his own admission, had Cannon being stopped yards before he neared the goal.

You could also look at the picture of "The Stop," showing Severance (14), Grubb (61), and Bill Majors (44), each making a contribution to the play. The picture also shows head coach Bowden Wyatt celebrating yards away on the East side of the field. It's definitely a keeper in anybody's collection of Tennessee football photos.

It's been an article of faith over the years that Grubb, Severance, and Bill Majors were there for the history-making stop.

In "The Big Orange," Russ Bebb wrote: "Cannon started right and cut back inside where tackle Joe Schaffer slowed him a bit. Then Wayne Grubb and Charlie Severance hit him head-on, but Cannon kept chugging to the goal two feet away. Finally, Majors came roaring in to apply the clincher."

In "Once a Vol, Always a Vol," Haywood Harris and Gus Manning reported: "Down on the field, Charlie Severance knew precisely where he was at that magic moment, securely

wrapped around Cannon, the two adversaries locked in combat only a few inches shy of the goal line.

"At Severance's side was Wayne Grubb who had Cannon by the ankles. Hurtling through the air, making sure the LSU All-American stayed put, was Bill Majors, the safety, already a crowd favorite. He was the second of three brothers who came from Moore and Franklin Counties to play for the Vols."

You can draw your own conclusions about what actually happened on that play.

Those are several examples of what's on the written record, along with the classic picture taken from behind the play.

One more note. Here's what Cannon said after the game. "I will go to my grave believing I was over."

The passage of time is inexorable, and the reporting, images, and fans' memories of "The Stop" will always be with us. That picture will always be the gold standard of the most famous defensive play in Tennessee football history.

IN MEMORIAM: Geoffrey Neal Duggan (Oct. 3, 1956- March 25, 2026)

Professional Goals for Former Vols

By Mark Nagi

It's not easy to make it to the National Football League. An active roster can hold only 53 players. That means there are only 1696 spots available any given week.

Yes, the odds are long, but that doesn't mean this is an impossible task.

Last week, 14 former Vols were able to get in front of approximately 70 NFL scouts during Tennessee's annual Pro Day event.

"I think they know what they're getting out of a guy from here," Tennessee head coach Josh Heupel said of NFL representatives. "The tape is the tape, but they know the level of accountability that we have inside of our program, how we approach every single day. Their ability to be the same competitor every single day, what they get exposed to on the football knowledge part of it, I think they understand they're getting a consistent type of player."

One of the former Vols who has the best chance of being drafted early is cornerback Colton Hood. He had 50 tackles and eight pass breakups in 2025. He also ran a 4.41 40 at Pro Day.

Hood, a transfer from Colorado, is projected to be taken late in the first round or early in round 2.

"It's just been a dream," said Hood of the draft process. "Something that you dream about as a little kid. I would have never, not 'never imagined,' because I kind of had a feeling that this was going to be my (path), but it's just so surreal being in it right now. Just being able to live out my dream, that little kid that was in his room, looking at the ceiling just thinking about what it could be, to being here now. It's definitely surreal."

"We appreciate Colton being a part of this team and this program, too," said Heupel. "An athlete that does it the right way. Coming in May, learning

what we're doing, learning what it means to be a Vol on a day-to-day basis, but then also how he impacted the guys around him. Smart, tough, relentless competitor that cares about the people around him... he's setting himself up to have a great career."

Wide receiver Chris Brazzell II will be the Vols' highest selected offensive player, and possibly the only offensive player drafted this time around. Brazzell is projected to go in the third or fourth round.

"His length is a great attribute" said Heupel. "He's got speed that's rare at that size, and then his ability to be extremely loose, to sink and get out of cuts. His catch radius over the middle of the field, or a deep ball down the sideline. He's got some unique physical traits, and if you put that with his playmaking ability, those are hard to find."

The guy who got Brazzell the football last year was QB Joey Aguilar, who tried

to come back for another year of college football but was denied by the NCAA. Aguilar threw for 3,565 yards and 24 TDs in 2025 and was one of the SEC's top signal callers last season. He had surgery back in January to remove a benign tumor in his throwing arm.

Aguilar said, "The connections that I've made during the Combine with teams and all the Zooms I've been having throughout


these four weeks that I've been training, it's awesome to come out here and show the guys, you know, I'm not healthy yet, early in my throwing rehab, but the ball is coming out really well. I was excited, I felt good. Wish it could have been in Neyland one last time, but it is what it is."

"You look at where he's at, he hasn't been throwing the football except for a few weeks here post-surgery," said Heupel of Aguilar.

"I thought he performed really well, just throwing the football, so his best is still coming in this rehab process. I know that he'll do a great job wherever he goes, whenever it is, once he gets into camp. Who he is as a competitor and how smart he is, he'll be ready to go play at a really high level."

The NFL Draft takes place April 23-25. Former Vols who aren't drafted will try to hook up with the NFL via free agency.

KIWANIS CLUB of NORTHSIDE KNOXVILLE
~ ANNUAL PANCAKE DAY ~
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St. John's Lutheran Church
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Adults - \$5.00
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All proceeds support service activities of the Kiwanis Club of Northside, Knoxville and include Key Clubs at Bearden, Central, Fulton, and Halls High Schools, L&N STEM Academy, Key Club Service Awards, Camp Eagle's Nest, The Love Kitchen, Knox County 4-H, Dolly Parton Children's Hospital, Volunteer Ministry, Knoxville Children's Theatre, Wordplayers and more.

Make plans to attend and support all these LOCAL worthwhile causes! See you there!

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Kimberly

GLENN

REPUBLICAN

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SEAT 10

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AUDREY SKEEN, TREASURER

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

A-E shows progress in 15-5 win over Hancock County

By Steve Williams

It was a start. Austin-East notched its first win over a TSSAA sanctioned team last Thursday, defeating Hancock County 15-5 at Raleigh Wynn Field.

The Roadrunners' first two victories had come against Apostolic Christian School of Knoxville.

"We lost a close one (7-6) to Carter, but we're getting there," said Head Coach Sanford "Smitty" Smith.

"We're preaching basic fundamentals and we're getting the guys' IQ up about baseball. We're feeding it to them and they are beginning to buy in. We're not doing anything different other than basic fundamentals and we're trying to tell them how good they can be.

"And have a better attitude. We use the words attitude and altitude. You can't get a good altitude unless you have a good attitude. And that's what we are preaching to them



BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Austin-East's baseball team, which has been working hard to get better, celebrate a 15-5 win over Hancock County last week.

altitude and attitude. So they are beginning to buy in. We're beginning to do all kinds of fundamentals out here on the field that

they've never had before and we're just grateful that they are beginning to buy in.

"We still got a long way to

go because you can't turn a horse in full stride. You got to slow the horse down and that's what we're doing. We're slowing them down,

slowing them down and teaching them day by day on what to do and what not to do."

Hancock County got off

to a 4-2 lead, but Austin-East had back-to-back five-run innings to go in front 12-4. The Roadrunners added three more runs in the fourth and ended up winning in five innings due to the 10-run rule.

Senior shortstop Justin Pruitt, who joined the baseball team after the basketball season ended, went 3 for 4 with two triples.

Nymere Jackson, the sophomore pitcher, also went 3 for 4.

Junior first baseman Kaysan Davis went 2 for 4 and had three RBIs.

Juel Houston, the second baseman, was 2 for 4 with four runs batted in.

Junior catcher David Weaver doubled and hit a home run.

Even though A-E lost 9-0 to rival Fulton Friday, the game went a full seven innings.

The Roadrunners will host Northview Academy today.



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Two girls from Maryville, 5-year-old Quinn (left) and 4-year-old Valley (right), enjoy their ice cream and the game at the Knoxville Smokies' season opener Friday night.

Smokies open season

Continued from page 1

leadoff designated hitter, Alexander Ramirez, went 2 for 3 with a double and scored two runs and knocked in one.

The Smokies got strong pitching over the

final four innings. Connor Schultz worked three shutout innings and earned a hold. Lefthander Evan Taylor pitched the ninth and got the save.

Knoxville will host Rocket City this week.

Spring is Fantastic!

For the most part, winter seems to have bid us farewell. Yes, around here, half a dozen "special winterers" are still to

come, but the temperatures are beginning to climb. I worry about the saying about March: "in like a lion, out like a lamb." Another snow might be on the way in the next couple of weeks. I almost sound like a weather prognosticator who covers both sides to avoid being wrong. Still, I'm encouraged that spring and warmer weather are here to stay.

I always like this time of year because Easter comes. For Christians, this is the most important day of all. "Christ has risen; he has risen indeed!" Our church choir, of which I am a member, will present its cantata on Palm Sunday. The week following Palm Sunday, churches around the world will observe Maundy Thursday, the time of the Last Supper, Good Friday, the day of Christ's crucifixion, and then Easter Sunday, the day on which Christ arose from death. The basis for a faith that has existed for 2000 years is one that offers hope for all people.

I admit that I couldn't

wait for the grass to grow before I broke out the mower. My yard is far from perfect. It has too many weeds that make the place look ragged. Leaves that have finally blown off the oak trees lie in small piles around the yard. Of course, I'll find any excuse to start mowing, weed eating, and blowing clippings.

In a couple of weeks, I might be going back to work at Knoxville Municipal Golf Course. I'll crawl out of bed about 5:00 a.m. and begin mowing half an hour later to keep the tee boxes in good shape. As much as I dislike going to bed early, I enjoy the early mornings and the routine for each week. I also like hanging out with the guys before and after mowing. We tease and joke with each other. It's much like a second family.

Sometime in the next couple of weeks, Dave will come to the house and open the pool for the season. He works wonders, and the water sparkles. Although it looks good enough to jump in, that move is ill-advised since the water is still frigid. Amy and I will set out the pool furniture and spend the next few months sitting by the poolside and finding peace and calm from just looking at that water. Our dogs find warm places to stretch out on the pool deck. When they warm up, Sadie and Harvey move to us in the shade. Amy shares her lounge chair with Sadie,

and Harvey flops on his side close to my chair.

The flowers have broken through the ground, and their greenery announces the arrival of blooms before too much longer. Amy has worked over the years to set out a variety of plants. Most of them are placed to draw hummingbirds, and we watch them arrive each year and stay until late summer or even early fall. Her green thumb has given plenty of color and life to our outdoor areas.

Best of all to me, spring ushers in Daylight Saving Time. That extra hour of daylight always invigorates me. Sitting outside late and watching fireflies is something that still fascinates me. Yes, I love summer, but no other season is as beautiful as spring with its never-ending supply of flowers and shrubs that burst with blooms. I'm glad spring is here and thankful that the good lord blesses East Tennessee with the most beautiful landscape in the country. Happy Easter and happy spring.

Correction

In March 30 edition of The Focus, Mitch Canon's name was misspelled in the Character Star Athlete listing for Knoxville Catholic. We apologize for the error.

A couple of Lions who are fast in track and football

Cont. from page 1

"It's nice to have these two freshmen and know they'll be with us for the next three years," said Coach Prince.

"And it inspires the younger guys to come on out and more football guys to come on out and join and begin in our winning ways."

Coach Harness added: "Dasani and Kohbe are great students and great athletes. And they work hard every day. And Kohbe also plays basketball. He's a point guard."

Other boys' winners at the 16th annual Roadrunner Invitational were sophomore Andrew Blake of Carter (5:09.78) in the 1600-meter run and senior teammate Trent TenBrook in the 110 hurdles (17:35) and 300 hurdles (45.20).

In the relays, Concord Christian took first place in the 4x100 (44.66), 4x400 (3:43.85) and 4x800 (9:30.74). Fulton prevailed in the 4x200 (1:34.76).

In the boys' field events, Grace

Christian's Kaden Webber took first place in the long jump (19-11¾), while Career Magnet Academy's Dominick George won the discus event (117-4) and GCA's Will Pasley was best in the shot put (41-4).

Fulton sprinter Zion Thompson won the girls' 100 dash in 12.64 seconds, while the Lady Falcons' sophomore Shiloh Taylor took top honors in the 200 (26.62).

Other winners among the girls included Carter's Jaiden Davis (1:02.45 in the 800 run), Abby Roberts of Grace (2:32.43) in the 800, GCA's Sophie Lee (5:37.63) in the 1600,

and Ella Blake of Carter in the 3200 (14:34.07).

Eighth grader Piper Coffey, representing GCA, was a double winner in the 100 hurdles (18.66) and 300 hurdles (53.38).

In the girls' relays, Fulton finished first in the 4x100 (50.47) and 4x200 (1:46.20). Paideia Academy won the 4x400 in 4:47.02.

The field events saw Austin-East junior Kalani Wells take first place in the high jump (4-4).

Other winners were Carter's Bella Palado in the long jump (14-2), Riley Nuzzolo of GCA in the discus (72-1) and A-E's Ari'Ajia Gadison in the shot put (35-7½).

By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

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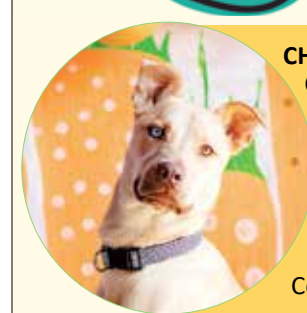
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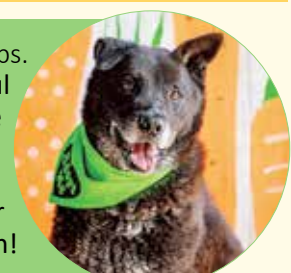


CHASE – 1.5 years old, 51 lbs.

Chase is a fun-loving, energetic pup with a big personality and an even bigger heart. He's eager to please and highly treat-motivated, making him both trainable and a little stubborn at times. Friendly, social, and wonderfully goofy, Chase loves being around people and other dogs. He's easygoing in nature but always ready for playtime—and he's not shy about using his voice to share his excitement! Come visit Chase at the Village today!

BEAR – 7 years old, 73 lbs.

Bear is a sweet boy with a gentle heart and a playful spirit. He loves a good game of fetch, soaking up the sun, and getting all the pets he can. Full of love and energy, Bear is the perfect mix of calm companion and joyful best friend. Come meet Bear today at our Village location!



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

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES RUSSELL AKINS DOCKET NUMBER 92288-3

Notice is hereby given that on MARCH 23, 2026, Letters Administration in respect to the Estate of JAMES RUSSELL AKINS, deceased, who died on January 14, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Clerk of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against said 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 (or posting as the case may be) of this Notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

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

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

This the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF JAMES RUSSELL AKINS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHRISTOPHER AKINS

DAPHNE H. MOFFATT, ATTORNEY
611 SMITHVIEW DRIVE
MARVILLE, TN 37803

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JERRY LISK BALLARD DOCKET NUMBER 92228-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JERRY LISK BALLARD, who died on January 6, 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 date 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 20 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF JERRY LISK BALLARD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
FIRST HORIZON BANK
800 S. GAY STREET, 5th FLOOR
KNOXVILLE, TN 37929

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROBERT EUGENE BRAMBLETT DOCKET NUMBER 92021-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROBERT EUGENE BRAMBLETT, who died October 15, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 20 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF ROBERT EUGENE BRAMBLETT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LAURENCE BRAMBLETT
21445 SCOTT PARK ROAD, LOT 12
DAVENPORT, IA 52807

GLENNA W. OVERTON-CLARK, ATTORNEY
9111 CROSS PARK DRIVE, SUITE D-200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BARBARA JEAN BROCK DOCKET NUMBER 92246-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of MARCH, 2026, Letters of Testamentary/ Administration in respect to the Estate of BARBARA JEAN BROCK, deceased, who died on January 20, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured against his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 20 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF BARBARA JEAN BROCK

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
AMANDA BROCK BROOKS
149 WALKER STREET
CHILHOWIE, VA 24319

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RUTH PHILLIPS CROLEY DOCKET NUMBER 91859-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of RUTH PHILLIPS CROLEY, who died September 22, 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 20 day of MARCH, 2026.

SCOTT B. HAHN, ATTORNEY
5344 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 101
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RAY LEON CHANDLER DOCKET NUMBER 92212-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of RAY LEON CHANDLER, deceased, who died on 12/25/25, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk & 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 of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026

ESTATE OF RAY LEON CHANDLER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SHEILA G. BUCKNER, EXECUTRIX
234 RIDGE VIEW ROAD
LUTTRELL, TN 37779

DARRICK L. EDMONDSON, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 789
MAYNARDVILLE, TN 37807

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM WALTER CLARKSON DOCKET NUMBER 92177-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM WALTER CLARKSON, who died Dec. 27, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 11th day of March, 2026.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM WALTER CLARKSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KAREN GALYON
505 RIDGE RD.
MARYVILLE, TN 37803

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BETTY JEAN CLEMONS DOCKET NUMBER 92253-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of BETTY JEAN CLEMONS, who died on February 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 the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF BETTY JEAN CLEMONS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
WILLIAM RAY CLEMONS
6452 SON LIGHT WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RUTH PHILLIPS CROLEY DOCKET NUMBER 91859-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of RUTH PHILLIPS CROLEY, who died September 22, 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 20 day of MARCH, 2026.

This the 20 day of MARCH, 2026

ESTATE OF RUTH PHILLIPS CROLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLES DAVID HAMILTON, SR.
11109 ANCHORAGE CIRCLE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

CHRISTOPHER W. MARTIN, ATTORNEY
920 VOLUNTEER LANDING, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37915

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RALPH STEVEN DAVIS DOCKET NUMBER 92174-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RALPH STEVEN DAVIS, who died Jan. 29, 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 11th day of March, 2026.

ESTATE OF RALPH STEVEN DAVIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DUSTIN LEE DAVIS
6817 SEVIERVILLE PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

SARAH OTT MCDONNELL
4407 CYPRESS LANAE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOSIAH VIRGIL DOAN, JR. DOCKET NUMBER 92283-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of JOSIAH VIRGIL DOAN, JR., 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 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 is the 25th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOSIAH VIRGIL DOAN, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TERRI DOAN GEISER
6819 FLINT GAP ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

M. SAMANTHA PARRIS, ATTORNEY
2908 TAZEWELL PIKE, SUITE G
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES M. FOX DOCKET NUMBER 92282-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of JAMES M. FOX, who died January 26, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Knox County 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 of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF JAMES M. FOX

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LEIGH A. FOX
800 CEDAR LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

DAVID B. HAMILTON, ATTORNEY
1810 MERCHANT DR.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GERALD EMIL GOMBERT DOCKET NUMBER 92124-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 20 day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of GERALD EMIL GOMBERT, who died on January 14, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This the 20 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF GERALD EMIL GOMBERT

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JONATHAN DALE GOMBERT
11851 BLACK ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GREGORY MAPLES DOCKET NUMBER 92284-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026, Letters of Testamentary/ Administration in respect to the Estate of GREGORY MAPLES, deceased, who died on February 22, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured against his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred;

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

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

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

This the 23rd day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF GREGORY MAPLES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MIRANDA MAPLES
1500 RAMBLING ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

SCOTT B. HAHN, ATTORNEY
5344 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 101
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SANDRA E. MORRIS DOCKET NUMBER 92143-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of MARCH, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of SANDRA E. MORRIS, who died Aug. 5, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 13 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF SANDRA E. MORRIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ANGELA ELLIOTT, ADMINISTRATRIX
7218 JANA CHRIS LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES LOWRY SHOEMAKER DOCKET NUMBER 92195-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 13 day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary CTA in respect of the Estate of JAMES LOWRY SHOEMAKER, who died on June 14, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)A Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 the 13 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF JAMES LOWRY SHOEMAKER

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ANGELA CLENDENING DOCKET NUMBER 92247-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of MARCH, 2026, letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of ANGELA CLENDENING, who died June 8, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 25th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF ANGELA CLENDENING

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) WAYNE CLENDENING 8346 SHOREGATE LANE KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES DENNIS GRAVES DOCKET NUMBER 92109-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 27th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of CHARLES DENNIS GRAVES, who died DECEMBER 21, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 27th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLES DENNIS GRAVES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) CHERRI VAIL 4164 WARD COVE DRIVE NICEVILLE, FL 32587

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH D. JOHNSON DOCKET NUMBER 92261-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH D. JOHNSON, who died January 9, 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 first publication as described in (1)(A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 25th day of March, 2026.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH D. JOHNSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) SALLY JOHNSON SHARP 422 HARDWICK DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

FRED J. JOHNSON, JR. 1633 BOTSFORD DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PATRICIA FAYE JONES DOCKET NUMBER 92238-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PATRICIA FAYE JONES, who died Dec. 7, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 27 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF PATRICIA FAYE JONES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) DANIELE KEITH, ADMINISTRATRIX 4703 DEVON SPRINGS WAY, APT. 1908 KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DEANE S. KISER DOCKET NUMBER 92266-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DEANE S. KISER, who died Jan. 13, 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 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 25th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF DEANE S. KISER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) SHARON WILLIAMS 2091 WATT CEMETERY RD. LOUDON, TN 37774

TIMOTHY KISER 1928 CHESTNUT GROVE RD. KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KATHERINE ELLEN LONG DOCKET NUMBER 92301-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of KATHERINE ELLEN LONG, who died December 15, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk 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 26th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF KATHERINE ELLEN LONG

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) MACKENZIE SHAYE WALLACE 597 SEMINOLE AVENUE, APT. D ATLANTA, GA 30307

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROBERT A. MCGEE DOCKET NUMBER 92225-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ROBERT A. MCGEE, who died Feb. 6, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against 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 first publication as described in (1)(A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 27 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF ROBERT A. MCGEE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) CHARLES M. MCGEE, EXECUTOR 9009 GNARLED PINE LANE KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

LISA W. GAMMELTOFT, ATTORNEY 110 COGDILL ROAD KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SHIRLEY A. PATTERSON DOCKET NUMBER 92181-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of SHIRLEY A. PATTERSON, 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 and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

This the 11th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF SHIRLEY A. PATTERSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) STEPHEN L. PATTERSON 1350 YARNELL STATION BLVD. KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

BRADLEY S. LEWIS, ATTORNEY 10413 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 200 KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LORI KATHERINE PETTWAY DOCKET NUMBER 92231-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of MARCH, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of LORI KATHERINE PETTWAY, who died on December 23, 2025, were issued to the referenced Personal Representative by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the abovenamed court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditors 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 the (1)(A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 26th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF LORI KATHERINE PETTWAY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) ROBERT PETTWAY 1168 LAKESHORE DRIVE NEW LONDON, NC 28127

DONALD J. FARINATO, ATTORNEY 445 S. GAY STREET, SUITE 401 KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SHEILA PITT POWER DOCKET NUMBER 92233-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SHEILA PITT POWER, who died Jan. 14, 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 the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 27 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF SHEILA PITT POWER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) THOMAS E. POWER, JR., EXECUTOR 4513 BRITANNY HILLS WAY KNOXVILLE, TN 37938

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY ANN SCHMITTOU DOCKET NUMBER 92207-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY ANN SCHMITTOU, who died Dec. 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against 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 first publication as described in (1)(A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 27 day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARY ANN SCHMITTOU

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) ERIC SCHMITTOU, EXECUTOR 3522 NEWPORT PARK WAY LOUISVILLE, TN 37777

KATHERINE S. GOODNER, ATTORNEY 1111 N. NORTHSHORE DRIVE, SUITE S-700 KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DARREN LLOYD SCHMITZ DOCKET NUMBER 92274-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of DARREN LLOYD SCHMITZ, who died Feb. 14, 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 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 26th day of March, 2026.

ESTATE OF DARREN LLOYD SCHMITZ

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) BRIAN HENRY DAVISON 819 SUNNYDALE ROAD KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARILYN SUE MACKLEY SMITH DOCKET NUMBER 92272-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARILYN SUE MACKLEY SMITH, who died Jan. 2, 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 25th day of March, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARILYN SUE MACKLEY SMITH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) JOSEPH ALLEN MACKLEY 2516 BRIGHTON FARMS BLVD. KNOXVILLE, TN 37932

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DOROTHY ANN SMITH DOCKET NUMBER 92276-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of MARCH, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY ANN SMITH, who died Jan. 27, 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 26th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY ANN SMITH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) ANTWONE BROWN 2630 LARKWOOD LANE KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LEE ROY WARD DOCKET NUMBER 92244-2

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

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

This the 25th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF LEE ROY WARD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) TONETTE WARD 131 ABBY LANE JACKSBORO, TN 37757

REBECCA BELL JENKINS, ATTORNEY 9724 KINGSTON PIKE, SUITE 202 KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SANDRA M. WIESE DOCKET NUMBER 92298-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of SANDRA M. WIESE, who died December 7, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 25th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF SANDRA M. WIESE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) JOHN MCLAREN WIESE LEE ANN WIESE THOMPSON

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BETHANY M. WILLIAMS DOCKET NUMBER 92082-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BETHANY M. WILLIAMS, who died September 13, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above-named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

This the 25th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF BETHANY M. WILLIAMS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) COURTNEY WILLIAMS MOORE 1232 HAMSTEAD COURT KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

MICHAEL R. CROWDER, ATTORNEY 550 W. MAIN STREET, FOURTH FLOOR KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JULIE ANN YAGER DOCKET NUMBER 92307-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of MARCH, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration) in respect of the Estate of JULIE ANN YAGER, who died on November 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 26th day of MARCH, 2026.

ESTATE OF JULIE ANN YAGER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) PATRICIA A. WEBB 119 ASHFORD LANE LENOIR CITY, TN 37792

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

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

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

- BID 3728, KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TACTICAL DRIVING COURSE, Due 4/30/26
BID 3730, HOME REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR KNOX COUNTY REHABILITATION PROGRAM, Due 5/12/26
BID 3732, OFF



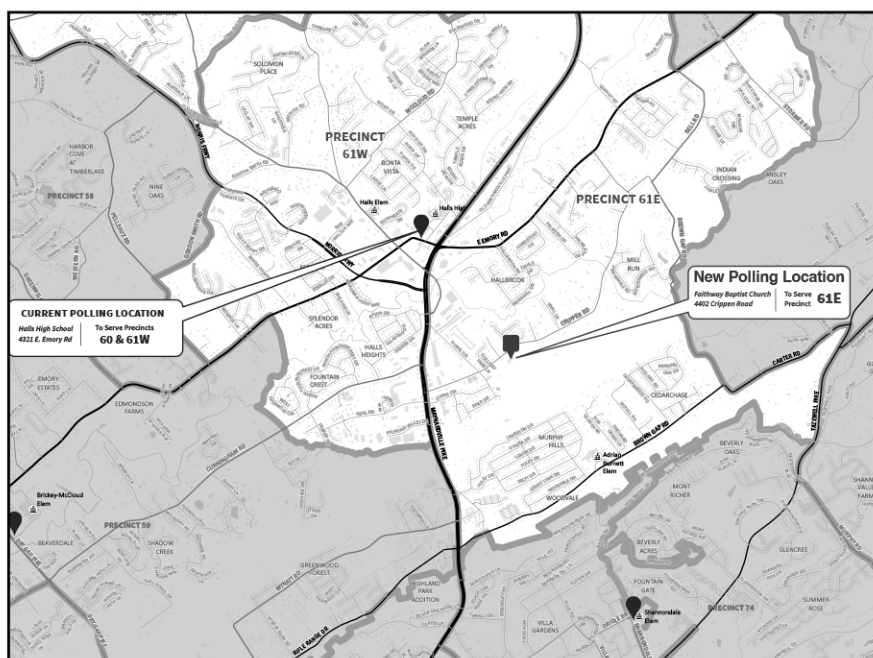
Notice of Voting Precinct Boundary Changes & Election Day Polling Place Relocations

On January 28, 2026, the Knox County Election Commission approved polling place relocations for the areas shown below. Affected voters will receive notice by mail prior to the May 5, 2026 election. More detailed boundary lines and polling place locations may be viewed at KGIS.org and knoxvotes.org

NEW ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES

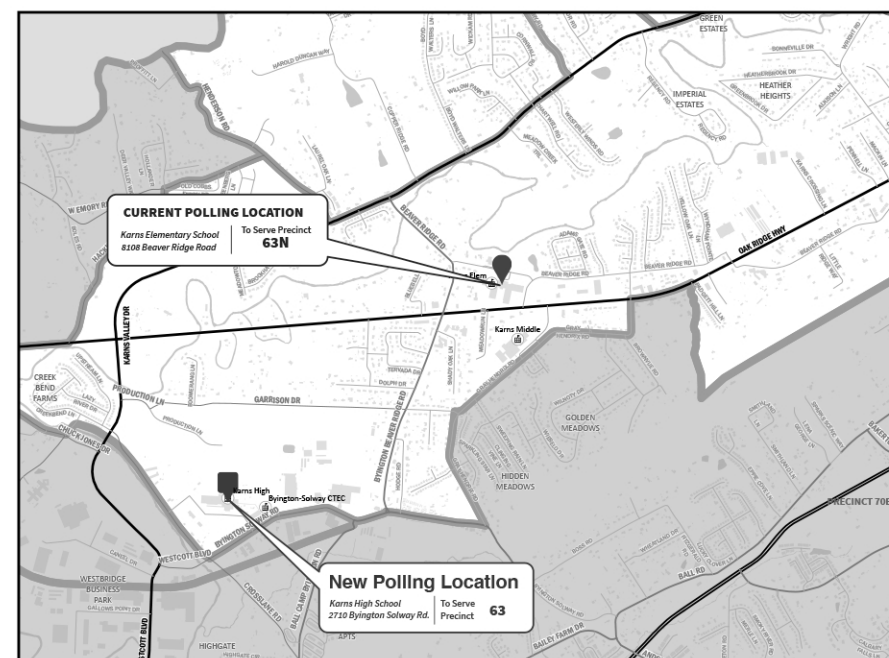
Precinct 61E

FAITHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
4402 Crippen Road, Knoxville, 37918



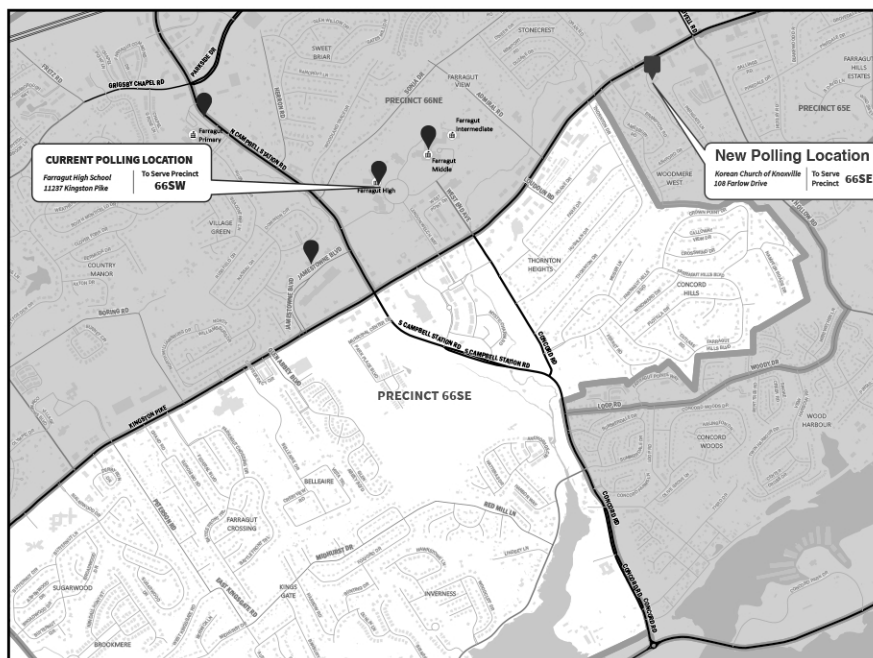
Precinct 63

KARNS HIGH SCHOOL
2710 Byington Solway Road, Knoxville, 37931



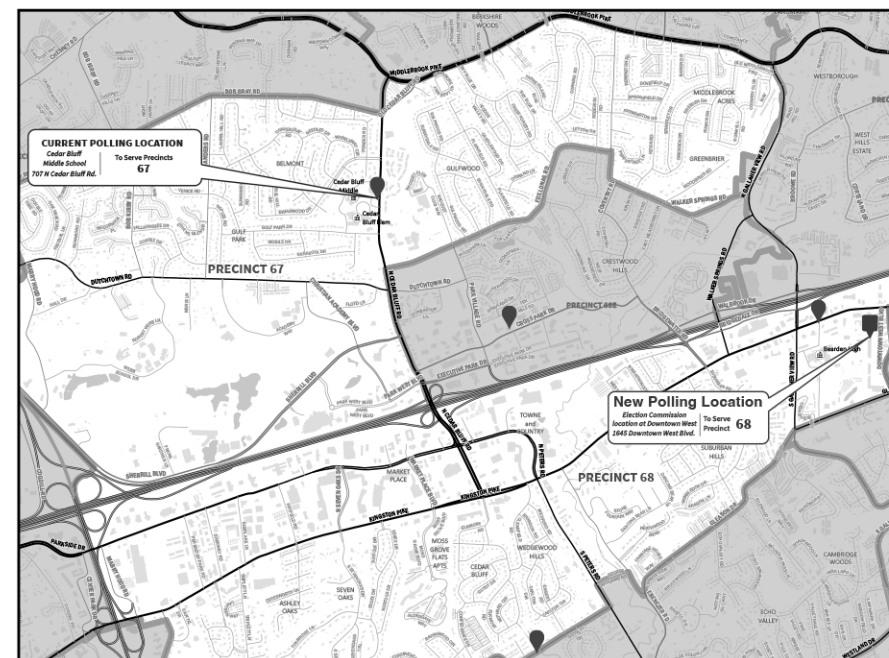
Precinct 66SE

KOREAN CHURCH OF KNOXVILLE
108 Farlow Drive, Knoxville, 37934



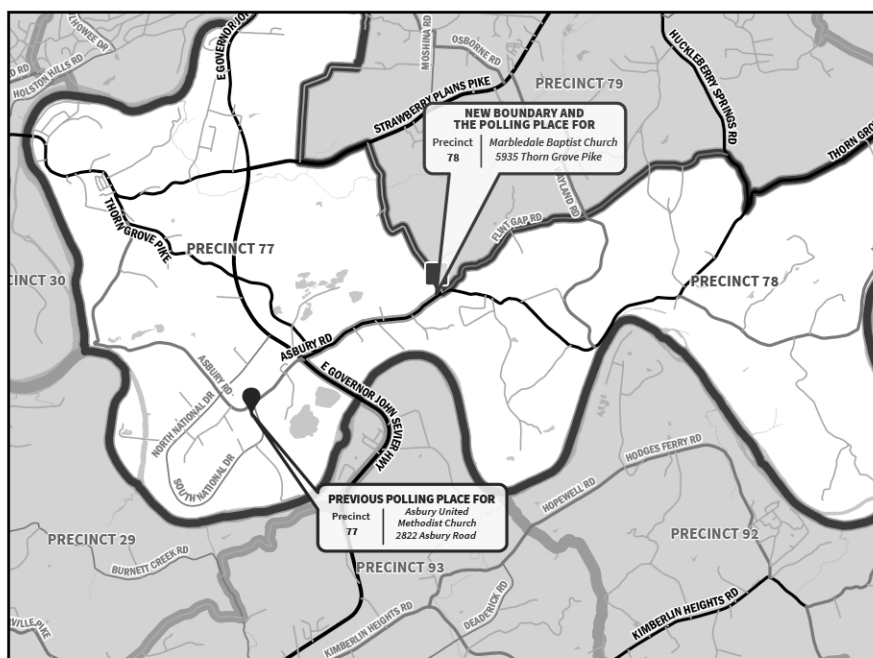
Precinct 68

ELECTION COMMISSION – DOWNTOWN WEST
1645 Downtown West Blvd., Unit 40, 37919



Precinct 78 (Merged with Precinct 77)

MARBLEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
5935 Thorn Grove Pike, 37924



Knox County Election Commission

Hannah Hopper, Chair
Julie Gautreau, Secretary
Bob Bowman
Eddie Smith
Adronicus Thomas
Christopher S. Davis, Administrator

Knox County Courthouse
300 Main Street, Room 229
Knoxville, TN 37902
865-215-2480

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
www.knoxvotes.org

A federal or State of Tennessee issued photo ID is required to vote, unless an exception applies. College student IDs will not be accepted. To learn more about the law and its exceptions, please call 865-215-2480 or visit www.GoVoteTN.com