

The Knoxville Focus

www.knoxfocus.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR

ONLINE AUCTION

Friday, August 14

See photos at
fountaincityauction.com

Fountain City Auction

(865)474-9931

FREE
Take One!

August 10, 2026

Phone: 865-686-9970 | PO Box 18377, Knoxville, TN 37928 | Located at 4109 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

'Third time's the charm' for Garrett Holt

Candidates react to wins at Crowne Plaza

By Ken Lay

Garrett Holt's perseverance has finally paid off.

In his third run for public office, Holt was victorious in his bid for the Knox County Commission At-Large Seat 11 Thursday night after an unsuccessful run for city council in 2022 and another failed run for Knox County Commission District 4 seat in 2024.

"I'll have 513,000 bosses, and I can't wait to get to work for every one of them," said Holt, who defeated Democrat Vivian Underwood Shipe and independent David Velarde Thursday night. "I'm excited, and now the campaign is over and now the real work begins, and I can't wait to get to work."

"The third time's the charm and for me, it's about getting to work and serving the people of Knox County. This is really kind of surreal in a good way."

Holt was one of several Republicans to celebrate a victory on Election Night at the Crowne Plaza in Downtown Knoxville. He'll take office on Sept. 1.

Nick McBride will be the next

Knox County Trustee. The current register of deeds promised to bring trust back to the office.

"The trustee (Justin Biggs) surrendered 12 vehicles, and that was the right thing to do," said McBride, who defeated Democrat Stephen Hood. "That was the first thing that I was going to do when I took office."

"I said it before, and I'll say it again. When I was the register of deeds, my door was always open. It will be the same as trustee. My door will always be open. I'm not just saying it. I mean it. I look forward to putting my staff together and the transition. I take office on Sept. 1, and the tax bills have to go out Oct. 1, and they're coming."

On the Knox County Board of Education, incumbent Steve Triplett was re-elected to represent District 7 as he defeated Democrat Amy Fenner.

"It's my honor to serve District 7 on the school board," Triplett said. "I want to thank God, and I will continue to serve Him, and I want to thank the people of District 7."

"The school board is going to look a little different, and you're going to have some different people, and we'll have to figure out a way to work together."

Continue on page 4



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Garrett Holt addresses supporters at the Republican watch party in Downtown Knoxville. He was elected to the at-large Seat 11 on the Knox County Commission. This was Holt's third attempt at public service, He also ran for City Council in 2022 and narrowly lost a county commission bid for District 4 in 2024.



Jeff, Jackson and Todd Daniel stand outside their new Daniel Law Firm office in Powell. After 33 years in downtown Knoxville, the Daniels love their new location and are excited about the future. Photo by Mike Steely.

Daniel Law Firm excited to be in Powell

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

For over three decades, the Daniel family practiced law out of an office located in downtown Knoxville and, less than a year ago, the family firm moved to a new building in Powell. The move takes the family law practice back to its roots.

Brothers Todd and Jeff Daniel talked about the move onto land at the family homestead in Powell. The Daniels Law Firm will soon be joined by the 4th generation of Daniel kin in the legal profession; Jackson is in his final year of law school, and the new building at 8303 Heiskell Road

in Powell has an office waiting for him.

After working downtown for 33 years, both brothers are surprised by the increase in walk-in clients. Their father, Zane, established the Daniel Law Office in Knoxville, and when Jackson joins the firm, he will operate from behind the desk that every Daniel lawyer has practiced behind since his grandfather.

Todd says of the new location, "It's a community," and the new office offers more personalization for clients. "Our father created this whole thing to help people," he added.

Jeff said walk-ins are

welcome and anyone may contact the Daniel Law firm by calling 865-546-4292 and learn more at their website, knoxtnatorneys.com. He noted that active clients are also given the cell numbers of the lawyer handling their case.

Todd said that in some instances, the firm acts not only as counsel but as a counselor to prospective and active clients, knowing how a case can affect their lives.

"If you can't get them out, we'll get in there with you," Jackson said, repeating a saying passed down through the family of attorneys. The Daniel family often mixes humor

because "you have to be able to laugh," Jeff said.

"We don't make facts up. We say, 'Prepare and do the best you can,'" he commented.

The Daniel Law Firm specializes in criminal defense and personal injury cases as well as wills, estates and family law.

Downtown congestion, paid parking and an uninviting location are no longer in the equation. Todd walked outside and looked across the road to a house and several barns and pointed out a rooster crowing. The Daniel Law Firm is at home in Powell, busy and happy.

Henderson wins tight Knox County Mayoral Race

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Nearly 90,000 registered Knox County voters participated in the state primary and state and county general election and selected Marsha Blackburn as the Republican nominee and Jerri Green as the Democratic nominee for governor. The two will face each other in the November general election.

A very large number of people voted early, and Thursday's Election Day had a substantial showing as well. "Turnout has picked up as the day has gone on. Many places have lines now, but they're not too long," Election Administrator Chris Davis told The Focus during the final hours of Election Day.

Most of the local attention was on the general election for Knox County Mayor, Commission and School Board. Republican Betsy Henderson will become the county's first female executive, defeating Democrat Beau Hawk

by only 4,354 votes.

Democrats added one more party member to the Knox County Commission with Brandon Huckaby's victory over Sheri Super for the District 3 seat. Republicans Barry Beeler, Justin D. Cofer and Garrett Holt won their races for commission seats in Districts 7, 10 and 11, respectively.

In the races for the Knox County Board of Education, Democrat Breyana Holloway won with 77.57% of the vote in District 1. Democrats Katherine Bike and Brandy Jenkins won in Districts 4 and 9 by 52.85% and 51.96% of the vote. Republican school board nominees Lee Ann Eaves of District 6 and Steve Triplett in District 7 also won their bids.

The race for Farragut mayor was close, with unofficial results showing Alex Cain with 3,099 votes to Louise Povlin's 3,034 votes. In the race for aldermen, Joey Ruffalo got 51.58% in Ward 1 and Greg Wiberley won in Ward 2 with 51.79% of the vote.

WE'RE BACK

Come see Edith at our new location.

Merle Norman
5115 Homburg Rd
Knoxville, TN 37919
865-525-9595
M-F 10-5, Sa 10-3

MERLE NORMAN
cosmetics



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Exposure

All truth passes through three stages:

First it is ridiculed.

Then, it is violently opposed.

Finally, it is accepted as being self-evident.

Arthur Schopenhauer

I know everyone is sick of hearing about Fauci, so I will not reiterate his lies. You can read the details from his diary, which was released prior to his so-called testimony before the Senate hearing. Or you can read Jeffrey Tucker's thoughtful analysis of the diary in the Epoch Times. Fauci's corruption and chutzpah, recorded on his government computer, made me think of Hunter Biden's infamous laptop.

I thought about entitling this essay 111, the number of times Fauci used the Fifth Amendment to cover his keister and obstruct Congressional inquiry into the Covid epidemic. It galls me that

this monster will probably escape prison because of Autopen's pardon. However, Fox News political consultant Bret Humes affords some solace. "There's a lot of talk that Dr. Fauci is escaping accountability for his handling of the coronavirus epidemic, but remember this: here is a man who cares desperately about his recognition and reputation. All that was in ruins as he sat miserably before the Senate committee Wednesday. He has had a spectacular fall from grace and has no way to recover."

Johann Faust was a 15th-century doctor whose life inspired legends about making a deal with the devil. The concept comes down to us as a Faustian bargain. Again, Jeffrey Tucker describes "Faucism" as a "prime example of the managerial/academic/journalist classes' desire for control based on alleged expertise." And it turns out they were all wrong about

the lab leak, masks, social distancing, Covid shots, lockdowns, and I could go on. In their quest for power and control, the media and the so-called experts further degraded confidence in our institutions. We must recall Schopenhauer's observations and reject the notion that "the science is settled."

I learned a new word last week. Omertà is an Italian term for a code of silence, especially when dealing with authorities or outsiders. The term is often associated with the Italian mafia, but seems to apply to Fauci, arguably America's Josef Mengele.

So what else has been exposed of late? The DSA, Democratic Socialists of America, just revealed their platform. The DSA and their candidates brazenly call for amnesty of all illegal aliens. They want to abolish the United States Senate as well as the presidency and the Supreme Court, replacing them with Congressionally controlled appointees. The DSA proposes to defund the Department of War and abolish the military. In other words, destroy the Constitution.

And these Jacobin radicals keep shouting, "Medicare for all." I paid into the Medicare system for more than 50 years and continue to pay premiums of nearly \$1000 a month for

Becky and me. Medicare is not free! And giving Medicare coverage to people who have never contributed is theft. Why don't media dirtbags and politicians ask these DSA shysters to explain themselves? It is nothing but pandering to "useful idiots."

Biden was exposed as incompetent, and the Democrats and their media sycophants were exposed as liars. Autopen was a useful tool for the Democrats who facilitated the invasion of our southern border. They did so to bring in disadvantaged people who would then vote for Democrats through their illegal voting schemes. Anyone who opposes the SAVE Act is a proponent of illegal voting. Full stop!

Likewise, the socialists in Spain precipitated the invasion of the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. The pictures reminded me of our southern border during Autopen's presidency. It was not hard to close our border. It did not require more laws. It just took a competent president to enforce the law.

Biden's disaster is being corrected; Spain can rot. I don't care what the Spaniards do to their socialist prime minister, Pedro Sanchez. But closer to home, it is too late for the Democratic Party which has been invaded by the DSA socialists/communists led by

Bernie Sanders, the avuncular communist, who, like the DSA, uses the Democratic Party to advance seditious ideology. And we are all paying the price for people who still vote for Democrats because that party is gone. To paraphrase Jeff Foxworthy's comedic shtick, if you're voting for Democrats rather than common sense policies, you [are] part of the problem.

The news cycle moves on, but not JD Vance who is leading a task force to investigate and expose fraud in Medicare, Medicaid and the government. Our vice president actually works and has identified \$230 billion in fraud since March! We might balance the budget if we stop the fraud in Minnesota, California and multiple other areas. Remember the infamous Somali "Learning Center" in Minneapolis exposed by Nick Shirley rather than the disinterested media? Newsom's California has even advanced the "Stop Shirley Act" to criminalize investigative journalism. Hey Democrats, if I see a robbery I'm calling the police.

So let me end this rant with a few other exposures. We hear much about affordability, especially gas/energy, food and housing, and, of course, the war, which affects all

of these. The war caused the death of 13 American defenders of freedom and is expensive. But under President Trump's leadership and with our capable military, the foremost terrorist regime on the planet has been decimated. And the embargo, sanctions and freezing Iranian finances are choking the mullahs and the IRGC.

Becky and I have been blessed, and we sympathize with folks struggling to find housing, which has been pushed to the limit by millions of illegals.

And we are frugal. Becky loves a deal. Of course, we would rather pay less for groceries and gas, but here are some facts to consider. In 1945, the average American family spent 23% of its disposable budget on food. In 1985, it was 12%. Today it is 9.7%. Even in the best of times, food prices increase 2 to 3% a year. In 2025, food prices were up 3%, but were up 2.7% in grocery food. Dining out is expensive. Over the last decade, average wages have gone up 46% while food has increased 34%. Perception is not always born out by facts.

But enough exposure. We'll be fine if voters choose common sense rather than communism. If not, we're done.

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

Two city election questions may appear on the November ballot

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville city voters may see two proposals on November's ballot, each calling for the way city leaders are elected. Both amendments to the City Charter passed on their first readings at Tuesday's city council meeting following a long discussion on each.

One ballot question would ask voters if a candidate for council who gets

50 percent plus one vote in the non-partisan primary should be declared the winner and not face a second-place opponent in a general election. The primary candidate would be the winner, but questions arose about possible write-in candidates. That ballot question passed 6-3. The measure was sponsored by six council members. Voting "No" were council members Amelia Parker, Denzel Grant and Doug

Lloyd.

The second ballot question basically deals with how a tie in the primary or general election would be decided. The city council could choose a winner or, if time permits, a runoff election could be held. The "tie" ordinance change was sponsored by Councilwoman At-large Amelia Parker and the first reading passed in a split 5-4 vote.

One or both ballot questions must be approved this

month in order to appear on the November ballot.

In other action, the council voted to permit the police department to accept \$31,069 from the Downtown Knoxville Alliance for cameras to be placed in the Market Square area. Chief Paul Noel answered questions about the cameras. Councilman Denzel Grant asked about the process and camera locations, and Noel said the cameras would go up on Market Square and Gay Street in three or four locations, with some overlooking Krutch Park. Noel added the cameras do not have face recognition or license plate readers.

Ijams Nature Center was contracted for \$60,000 to clean up the Tennessee River from First, Second and Third Creeks to the center and recruit volunteers to help.

Playworld Preferred was authorized \$128,626 to replace the ground surface at the Suttree Landing Park playground, and the city's contract with Henley Roofing was increased for roof replacement and repairs at the L.T. Ross Building.

SEED was approved for \$25,000 in a Community Development Block Grant to weatherize 20 homes for needy families.

Family Investment Foundation was granted

\$144,000 to install wheelchair ramps and roll-in showers at the Knoxville Community Development Corporation households.

The council also approved several applications for federal and state funds for the Knoxville Police Department's mental health and wellness program, for equipment for the Mounted Unit, and for hiring and training of School Safety Officers for its School Safety Program. The council approved an application to the federal government for \$11.8 million with a local match of \$1.1 million for Knoxville Area Transit.

A zoning change for Zero and 3223 Valley View Drive, from single-family to general residential, was approved and a new traffic light was approved for 6640 Maynardville Pike, with \$5,000 set aside to purchase the property.

Dr. Patrick O'Brien was hired to serve as medical director for the fire department for \$30,000 with two optional one-year renewals.

Celebrating 70 years of Service, Dependability, Smooth Rides and Our Price Match Guarantee!

WWW.MATLOCKTIRESERVICE.COM

FARRAGUT
10730 Kingston Pike
865-966-0425

MARYVILLE
723 S Foothills Plaza
865-983-0741

HARDIN VALLEY
10838 Hardin Valley Rd
865-248-2340

LENOIR CITY
1301 Hwy 321 N
865-986-6533

ATHENS
201 S Congress Pkwy
423-744-9828

'23 Ford Mustang C'ble Eco, Premium \$25,970
2021 Ford Bronco 1st Edition, Low miles \$46,590
'23 Ford Exp'n LTD 4X4, Clean, 6K miles! \$65,900
2025 Jeep Compass LTD 4X4, B&W \$28,555
'23 Ford F-150 Tremor 23K miles, Save!!! \$55,937
2023 Ford Transit 12 Pass Van, XLT \$36,999
2024 Chrysler Pacifica LTD Loaded! \$38,521

Also take advantage of our Quicklane Tire and Auto Center - No Appointment Needed!
Price includes \$399 dock fee. Plus tax, tag and title. WAC. Dealer retains all rebates. Restrictions may apply. See Dealer for details. Prices good through next week.

RAY VARNER

Call Dan or Ray for all your New or Used Car & Truck needs.
 2026 N Charles G Seviars Blvd · Clinton, TN
865.457.0704
www.rayvarnerford.com

GOD'S PLACE TREASURES THRIFT STORE
 6119 Chapman Highway
 Furniture, glassware, clothing & more
Mondays: All \$1 items 50¢

Come in for prayer.
Manager - Vickie Johnson
Proceeds help feed the homeless.
M-F 10am-5:30pm 865-604-8077

Serving Knox and Surrounding Counties. Proudly independently owned and operated.

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

Mike Steely, Senior Writer steelym@knoxfocus.com
 Jamie Schnell schnellj@knoxfocus.com
 Sales sales@knoxfocus.com
 Pam Poe phpoe2000@yahoo.com
 Ruthie Akers Ruthie@knoxfocus.com
 Legal, Public Notice ads legals@knoxfocus.com

Articles designated as written by Focus Staff are the collaborative efforts of several staff members and are reviewed and approved by the editor and the publisher.

The Focus would like to thank all contributing writers. Submissions from our writers are gratis and are greatly appreciated. While articles are not guaranteed placement, we do strive to place as much as possible. Submissions for the paper are on a space available basis and are subject to publisher and editor approval. We want your news: that is what makes this paper truly a community newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR
OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS EDITION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND NEITHER THESE NOR ANY MATERIAL PUBLISHED HEREIN REPRESENT ENDORSEMENT BY THE FOCUS.

Advertising: The Focus is not responsible for errors in an advertisement if not corrected by the first week after the ad appears. This newspaper is not responsible or liable whatsoever for any claim made by an ad or for any of the services, products or opportunities offered by our advertisers. We do not endorse or promote the purchase or sale of any product, service, company or individual that chooses to advertise in this newspaper and we reserve the right to refuse any or all advertising we deem inappropriate or unacceptable by our company standards. Political advertising must be pre-paid. The Focus does not accept ads that defame any candidate. All political ad content must be pre-approved prior to its run in the paper.

865-686-9970 www.knoxfocus.com

Publisher's Position A Divided Knox County Republican Party Helped Elect More Democrats



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Knox County's general election showed big wins for several Republican candidates, most notably US Senator Marsha Blackburn who won the GOP nomination for governor. That result should not have surprised much of anybody, as Senator Blackburn remained the favorite during the entirety of the primary campaign, although she faced determined opposition from Congressman John Rose and state Representative Monty Fritts. The

gubernatorial primary was called by most news outlets less than an hour and a half after the polls had closed in Tennessee. From returns the following day, it appears that Blackburn won the Republican nomination by quite nearly ten percentage points, which is all the more impressive as the Rose campaign spent millions of dollars in negative advertising while Monty Fritts centered his own campaign around ideas. Senator Blackburn also enjoyed the advantage of a superlative campaign team led by Ward Baker.

Blackburn made a special effort to win East Tennessee. Senator Blackburn is from Middle Tennessee, yet she awaited the returns here in Knoxville on the night of the election. Her efforts paid off handsomely.

US Senator Bill Hagerty faced no opposition inside the primary on his way to winning a second term. Congressman Tim Burchett was also renominated

without opposition. In Middle Tennessee, Congressman Andy Ogles lost his primary contest to Charlie Hatcher, a farmer, in an upset. With 99% of the vote totals in, Hatcher won 53% of the vote compared to 47% for Ogles. Tennessee's Sixth District, vacated by John Rose, who was running for governor, saw a heated contest between former Congressman Van Hilleary and state Representative Johnny Garrett. Hilleary had been chief of staff for Rose but lost to Garrett, polling only 29% of the vote. Garrett polled almost 44% of the vote.

Brent Taylor is the Republican nominee in the newly redrawn 9th Congressional District and will face state Representative Justin Pearson, one of the "Tennessee Three."

State Senator Richard Briggs crushed Kent Morrell to win renomination and goes on to the November general election, while Jimmy Matlock won the nomination to run for the

seat held by Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally, who is retiring.

School Board member Betsy Henderson will be Knox County's new mayor, succeeding Glenn Jacobs. Democrat Beau Hawk won 47.5% of the vote in a close race.

Brent Gibson led the ticket with a big complement of votes, along with Charlie Susano and Mike Hammond, clerks of the Circuit and Criminal Courts, respectively. Sherry Witt, present county clerk, won a very large complimentary vote to return to the register of deeds' office. Richie Beeler will replace Witt as county clerk. Nick McBride fended off a challenge from a Democrat to win the trustee's office. Republicans Garrett Holt and Justin Cofer won the general election for the two at-large seats on the Knox County Commission. The down-ballot races showed less strength for Democratic candidates than weakness inside the campaigns

of Republicans. Sheri Super, who upset incumbent County Commissioner Gina Oster inside the Republican primary, lost decisively to Democrat Brandon Huckaby in the Third District. Bill Sofield had upset two-term incumbent Kristi Kristy in the primary and lost the general election to Democrat Brandy Jenkins.

Democrats will crow about having picked up another seat on the Knox County Commission as well as the school board. It's not so much that they had terrific voter appeal but rather they faced a not-so-great candidate in the Third District in Sheri Super. The overwhelmingly negative campaign run against Gina Oster also deeply hurt Super's effort in the general election. That was also the case two years previously when Shane Jackson beat Garrett Holt to represent the Fourth District after a particularly vicious primary with an improbable 85-year-old challenger.

Bill Sofield won the 9th District school board primary by a handful of votes and proved to be not as strong a candidate in the general election than Kristy would have been. Intraparty warfare and the inability to coalesce around general election candidates is how Democrats became the minority party in Tennessee. Republicans must remember the party faithful need to be able to come back together in order to win general elections; otherwise, it benefits the Democrats.

Time will tell if Republicans in Tennessee have learned anything at all. The election demonstrates that simply having an "R" after one's name on the ballot does not ensure success in the general election. The quality of candidates does matter. We have opportunities to learn from our mistakes or we can keep repeating them until Republicans become the minority party in Tennessee once again.

\$155 million in bonds may be issued by county

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knox County Commission will meet to review its agenda next Monday for its regular session on August 24 in what could be very long sessions.

The top dollar issue before the commission is the request from Mayor Glenn Jacobs and the Finance Department for votes on the issuance of \$155,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds and on the levy of taxes for the future payment of those bonds. Currently, the county property tax rate remains unchanged at \$1.5540 per \$100 of assessed value.

While 54 items are up for discussion for the regular August session, several of the matters on the rough agenda are notable.

John Sevier Highway housing development

A new multi-family development on West Governor John Sevier Highway was postponed in July and is back on the agenda for approval of a waiver of payments in lieu of taxes. The developer is promising that 50% of the units will be used for affordable

housing and the commission is being asked to exempt those units from taxes for several years. DWF John Sevier LLC is the applicant.

District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox is opposed to the tax break because he feels affordable housing there is not needed.

Belltown Commons beverage zone

The commission may also decide on permitting open carry of alcoholic beverages in Belltown Commons in North Knoxville by creating a "Pedestrian Beverage Zone." The resolution, sponsored by District 6 Commissioner Terry Hill, was deferred from the July commission meeting. Belltown is a growing multi-generational community between Karns and Powell that will feature businesses, restaurants and amenities for its residents and the public in the spirit of Knoxville's Old City.

Hero's Hill donation

Mayor Glenn Jacobs created "Hero's Hill" near the Public Defender's Office and the Community Development Department is asking the commission to approve additional donations of \$52,570

for the project. Twenty tiny houses built by Knox County School students are being located on the hilltop property at 1101 West Liberty Street, along with a meeting room, computer lab and washers and dryers.

Gibbs Pedestrian Bridge

The commission is being asked by the Engineering and Public Works Department to approve a \$2.8 million contract with Whaley Construction LLC to build a bridge spanning Tazewell Pike between Gibbs High School and Gibbs Elementary School. The construction required state approval and is now before the commission for approval. It may be added to the meeting's consent list and passed with one vote with other agenda items so designated.

Flock cameras

Eighth District Commissioner Adam Thompson wants to amend the county code to establish limits on deployment of surveillance technology. His ordinance would "preserve legitimate law enforcement and emergency response capabilities" but would place restrictions on the use of

Continue on page 4

Fox seeking ban on Islamic Call to Worship

Ninth District Commissioner Andy Fox is sponsoring a resolution to ban "amplified Islamic Call to Worship" in Knox County. Fox, who has been verbally critical of the Islamic religion during past commission meetings, is asking the chair to add his resolution to the agenda for the regular August meeting of the Knox County Commission.

The Knoxville Focus has asked commissioners and the law department to respond to the proposed ordinance. Fox quotes many founding fathers in his ordinance to justify banning the public call to prayer. He states that John Jay wrote that the new nation is made of people "professing the same religion."

He quotes a former Supreme Court justice as saying, "Christianity ought to receive encouragement from the state" and a Supreme Court ruling from 1892 stating, "This is a Christian nation." He said the original 13 colonies limited holding public office to "followers of the Christian faith."

Fox quotes Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act as "explicit affirmation of this country's acquiescence to the Christian moral framework" and says in the ordinance that Muslims in Tennessee are a "new and disruptive force."

At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay said, "This ordinance seems blatantly unconstitutional and another sad attempt by Commissioner Fox to incite people into arguing while he continues to further his Christian Nationalists views, all while, sadly, ignoring the needs of Knox County's 9th district."

The Fox ordinance appears on the agenda for a first reading. "I have checked with the law dept. He is out of control," said Commission Chairwoman Gina Oster.

ONLINE ONLY REAL ESTATE AUCTION

1802 CALGARY FALLS LANE - KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH AT 12PM - NOON (ET)

OPEN HOUSES:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH AT 11:30AM (ET)

All-brick 2-Story Home with Unfinished Basement
Approx. 4551 SF with 4 Bedrooms & 4.5 Bathrooms
Over 2400 SF of unfinished basement space
Lot Size: 0.76+/- acres

FOR MORE DETAILS & TERMS VISIT: www.powellauction.com

POWELL
AUCTION & REALTY
KENNY PHILLIPS, AUCTIONEER - LIC # 2385

6729 PLEASANT RIDGE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921
865-938-3403

More Living.
Less Worry.

Memory care that adapts with them.

Schedule a Tour!

865-345-5474

THE Lantern
at Morning Pointe
Alzheimer's Center of Excellence
HARDIN VALLEY

2433 Reagan Road | Knoxville, TN

Assisted Living next door!

School board approves procedure for library book complaints

By Pete Gawda

At their meeting on Monday, August 3, the Knox County Board of Education spent a considerable length of time discussing the hot button topic of banning books from school library shelves. The board considered a policy for reviewing questionable books according to Tennessee law. The policy sets up a procedure for reviewing library material considered questionable under the age-appropriate materials act. It establishes a formal procedure whereby an interested person can initiate a complaint. This complaint will be considered by a five-person committee that would make recommendations to the board. This proposed policy passed on the first reading, waiving the usual second reading. Board members and forum speakers called for transparency in the entire process with the books being questioned and

the process and reasoning for accepting or rejecting them to be made public.

"We are harming, not protecting, our kids by banning books," was the opinion of one public forum speaker.

Another speaker voiced the opinion that under present law, the Bible would be banned from libraries. He said the policy was a step in the right direction., but he wanted all the details to be made public. "We do not want the fate of the Bible and other books to be determined behind closed doors."

He complained that the 123 books currently banned were decided behind closed doors.

It was noted that the 123 books currently banned from library shelves will be reconsidered under the new policy. However, one of the faults noted in the policy was that, except for those 123 books, there is not a

process for reconsidering a decision.

Turning to other business, the board recognized the accomplishments of three board members whose terms were expiring, John Butler, who started serving in 2022, Kristi Kristy, who started serving in 2018, and Betsy Henderson, who started serving in 2020.

Brickey McCloud Elementary School received recognition as a 2026 National Gold Star School by the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the only school in Tennessee to receive such an award. The award is presented to schools for excellence in building a strong school culture, empowering educators and students and creating effective systems that support continuous improvement.

The board also heard a presentation on plans for improving special education.



Dr. Kristen Jackson, current principal of Brickey-McCloud; Dr. Susan Hutton, previous principal of Brickey-McCloud and current principal of Bearden Middle; Knox County Schools Superintendent Jon Rysewyk; and District 7 BOE member Steve Triplett celebrate Brickey-McCloud Elementary's recognition as a 2026 National Gold Star School. Photo provided.

'Third time's the charm' \$155 million in bonds may be issued by county

Cont. from page 1

One of those new faces will be Lee Ann Eaves, who edged Democrat Cadence Collins in District 6.

"I was honored and humbled when I was asked to run," Eaves said. "Now, I'm even more honored and more humbled now that I've won."

In the courts, Andrea Kline defeated Ben Houston to remain Division IV General Sessions Judge.

Kline, the incumbent, said she was grateful that the campaign is over.

"I'm excited about getting

down to work because I don't have to campaign anymore," she said.

Richard Briggs was declared the first winner of the night as he defeated Kent Morrell in the primary and will represent the Republican Party in November as he seeks re-election in District 7 of the Tennessee State Senate.

He called for unity in his acceptance speech.

"The primaries are over, and now it's time to come together," he said.

Cont. from page 3

the cameras the sheriff's department wants to place and activate throughout the county.

Limits on large outside investors in housing

First District Commissioner Damon Rawls has an ordinance, on second and final reading, to prohibit outside institutional investors from purchasing single-family homes and manipulating rental and purchasing prices. The

ordinance would establish enforcement mechanisms.

A second reading of budget proposals

Fourth District Commissioner Shane Jackson and Commissioner Thompson are asking their fellow commissioners to approve adopting a "second reading" of future county proposals by the mayor to set the budget, tax rates and appropriations. If passed, it would amend the current Knox County Code.

Other agenda items

One notable agenda item from the mayor and finance department includes a discussion on a development agreement with BNA Associates LLC and Americana Knoxville LLC, related to the Andrew Johnson Building on Gay Street downtown. There's a resolution dealing with potential redevelopment of the Knoxville Municipal Golf Course, one for a ground lease for 120 acres at 8217 Rutledge Pike, and another transferring 3.1

acres at 11020 Solway School Road to the Industrial Development Board.

The regular meeting will also have several appointments on the agenda, including the mayor's reappointment of Rob Quillin as Hearing Officer regarding Sexual Oriented Businesses. Jim Wright will be appointed to the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District board and an appointment will be made to the Board of Construction Appeals.

NEW BEVERLY PRESENTS



The Award-Winning Gospel Group

THE SHIREYS

from Columbia, South Carolina, will be at New Beverly Church Sunday morning, August 16 at 11 a.m. They will be singing many of their hit songs such as "Little David," "Because of the Blood" and many others! You will be blessed!

No charge, just a Love Offering.



Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Senior Pastor
865-546-0001
www.NewBeverly.org

New Beverly Baptist Church
3320 New Beverly Church Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION

7708 DAVE ROAD - KNOXVILLE, TN 37938
12+/- ACRES WITH HOME OFFERED IN 2 TRACTS



BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH

REAL ESTATE | 12PM-Noon
PERSONAL PROPERTY | 7PM

OPEN HOUSES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST AND
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH FROM 2-4PM

Home & 3.76+/- Acres

Gorgeous 3657+/- SF Basement Ranch Home
3 Bedrooms & 3 Bathrooms

Finished basement area with full kitchen
Massive 1200SF detached workshop workshop
with Heat & Air and attached 24' x 40' carport

Additional 8.27+/- Acres accessed from Greenwell Road
Ideal for development or dream home
Private wooded land

OVER 500 LOTS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD INCLUDING:

2017 Porsche Cayenne Platinum Edition with 86k miles,
very nice collection of artwork including African wildlife artist Andrew Bone,
original Jean Miro lithograph, Emile Bellet, Joseph Barbetta, W.H. McEntee,
Bonnie Shields & others, antiques, furniture, household items, kitchenware,
shop/hand/power tools, Lapidary equipment & supplies, fiction/non-fiction/biography books, storage shelving/totes/cabinets, display shelving/cabinets/cases, jeweler tools/desk/lighting, gemologist books/tools/equipment, and LOTS, LOTS MORE!!!

FOR MORE DETAILS, TERMS & ONLINE BIDDING VISIT:
www.powellauction.com



POWELL
AUCTION & REALTY, LLC

KENNY PHILLIPS, AUCTIONEER - LIC # 2385

6729 PLEASANT RIDGE ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921
865-938-3403

Community encouraged to register for September Driver License Reinstatement Event

Community partners are encouraging eligible individuals to register for the upcoming Driver's License Reinstatement Event, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12 at the City-County Building. This initiative focuses on helping participants navigate the driver's license reinstatement process and remove barriers to obtaining a valid license.

The event is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Knox County Criminal Court Clerk's Office, Knox County General Sessions Court Judges, Knox City Municipal Court, the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, and community partners who work together to guide participants through the reinstatement process. By providing information, resources, and individualized assistance, organizers aim to help eligible individuals take the necessary steps toward restoring their driving privileges.

"Interest in this event continues to grow, and we're excited to welcome participants from Knox County and surrounding communities," said Knox County Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond. "Our partners work seamlessly to make this process as smooth as possible, helping participants overcome barriers and understand the requirements needed to reinstate their driver's licenses. This collaborative effort can make a meaningful difference for individuals and families throughout our community."

For registration information, eligibility requirements, and additional event details, please visit the Knox County Criminal Court Clerk's website at www.criminal-court.knoxcounty.org or contact the Criminal Court Clerk's Office at (865) 215-2375.

A look inside the Mabry-Hazen House

By Pete Gawda

The Mabry-Hazen House, located on a high hill overlooking downtown Knoxville, tells the story of three generations who owned the house. The house was completed in 1858 by Joseph Alexander Mabry II. The last resident of the house was his granddaughter, Evelyn Hazen, who died there in 1987.

"Evelyn (Hazen) is the reason the house is here," stated Patrick Hollis, executive director and chief curator of Mabry-Hazen. He said that her will stipulated that the house either be maintained as a museum or torn down and sold, with the proceeds going to the Humane Society. The house became a museum in 1992.

Many historic homes are a snapshot in time, with the entire house displaying one time period. That is not the case with Mabry-Hazen. Since the house was in the same family for almost 130 years, it has an extensive collection of original family furniture, china, silverware and other furnishings. However, Hollis believes a house such as this should not be just a collection of artifacts but should tell the everyday story of the people who lived and worked there through the years.

"With each room, we try to tell a different story," he said

Mabry was a wealthy landowner and president of the Knoxville and Kentucky Railroad. He donated land for Market Square. At the beginning of the Civil War, Mabry was a Confederate sympathizer and donated a large sum of money to the Confederate Army, for which he received the honorary title of general. However, when the Union Army captured Knoxville, he quickly switched sides and became a Union sympathizer and freed his slaves. Union fortifications were built on the property, and it became Union Army headquarters.

Mabry's journal is on display at the house. Pages 1 through



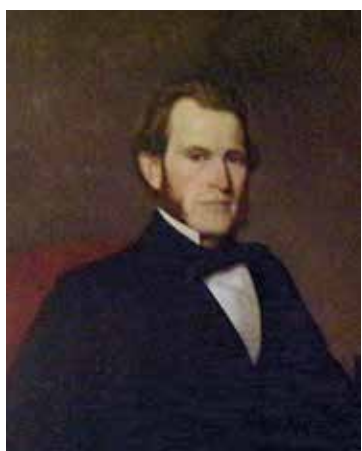
PHOTOS BY PETE GAWDA.

The Mabry-Hazen House, built in 1858, stands on a hill overlooking downtown Knoxville. It is now a museum and contains many of the owners' original furniture, china, silverware and other furnishings.

23 cover the period of JAN 1860 through MAY 1861. However, pages 24-88, covering the Civil War, have been torn out. Perhaps that was to destroy evidence of his switching sides.

In 1882, Mabry and his son were killed in a shootout on Gay Street, which was chronicled in Mark Twain's "Life on the Mississippi."

The house was built in the 4-over-4 style with four rooms on each floor and a central hallway



A portrait of Joseph Alexander Mabry II, the builder of the Mabry-Hazen House, hangs in the downstairs hallway of the house.

running the length of each floor. Hollis thinks it was built as a model home to encourage people to buy a lot from Mabry and build a similar home.

Unlike many antebellum homes, the original kitchen was not a separate building but was housed in the basement or bottom floor, as Hollis calls it. The bottom floor also housed slaves and later servants. Like many modern-day basements, it is also now used as a storeroom

for family furniture that is not on display. The first floor contains a formal parlor, an informal parlor, a dining room and an entertainment room. Hollis said this entertainment room shows how wealthy the Mabrys were. The entertainment room contains an 1858 piano which has probably remained in the same spot since that year. The piano has a child's initials "LN" and the date 1881 scratched on it. The second floor

Continue on page 2



This bedroom in the Mabry-Hazen House was used by the children of the family and is furnished with the antique toys they played with.

City of Knoxville invites public to stormwater discussions

The City's Stormwater Engineering Division is hosting four public discussions to share updates on its comprehensive stormwater system analysis and to hear from property owners about their flash flooding experiences:

- Tuesday, Aug. 11 – Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center, 3124 Wilson Ave.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12 – Cecil Webb Community Center, 923 Baker Ave.
- Monday, Aug. 17 – Christenberry Community Center, 931 Oglewood Ave.
- Thursday, Aug. 20 – Deane Hill Recreation Center, 7414 Deane Hill Drive

In recent years, the City of Knoxville has invested \$4.3 million in an unprecedented stormwater system infrastructure inventory – a top-to-bottom mapping and evaluation of the age and condition of about 45,000 catch basins, box culverts, junction boxes and 400 miles of stormwater pipes.

At the same time, the City has invested millions of dollars to update and improve pieces of infrastructure that were outdated and unable to control flooding. Modernizing the stormwater infrastructure on Cherry Street in East Knoxville and Baum Drive in West Knoxville are two examples.

Yet storms are becoming increasingly violent. City rain gauges have recorded instances where more than an inch of rain deluges Knoxville in just 15 minutes. As the storms roll through, that rainfall amount multiples. Localized flash flooding occurs.

What's the connection between infrastructure modernization and climate resiliency? And how can your input at the upcoming August public meetings help?

Continue on page 4

REPLACE YOUR EXISTING HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM WITH A HIGH EFFICIENCY ONE!

COMPASS

HEATING AND AIR

WE DO DUCT CLEANING!

NORTH AMERICAN
NATE
TECHNICIAN EXCELLENCE

Serving you since 1979.

(865)524-7237 (865)688-1124

MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC

COOLING & HEATING

Energy Star Certified

Stop Counting Your Critics

If I could offer just one piece of leadership advice to anyone trying to make a difference in their family, workplace, church, or community, it would be this: Stop counting your critics. Weigh them.



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist
Church Senior Pastor

What a needed reminder in a world where opinions are louder, more public, and more numerous than ever before. Social media has made criticism instant. Text messages spread it. Conversations repeat it, and before long, we begin believing that because criticism is widespread, it must be right. It is important to remember that numbers have never been the best measure of truth.

The Bible gives us a powerful example in the life of Nehemiah. God had called him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, a task that would require courage, endurance, and unwavering focus and discipline. Almost immediately, the critics appeared. Sanballat, Tobiah, and others mocked

the work, questioned Nehemiah's motives, spread false accusations, and repeatedly tried to distract him from the mission God had given him. These critics were persistent, loud, and even organized. But they were also wrong. Nehemiah refused to measure their influence by how many voices opposed him. Instead, he weighed the source of criticism. These were not men who appeared to love God or God's work. They did not love Jerusalem. They certainly did not have Nehemiah's best interests at heart. Why should he allow people committed to stopping God's work to determine whether he continued it? His famous response still echoes today: "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down." Every one of us needs to learn that lesson: not every opinion deserves equal access to your heart. Some criticism is

incredibly valuable. In fact, Proverbs tells us that "faithful are the wounds of a friend." The people who truly love you will sometimes tell you what you need to hear rather than what you want to hear. They care more about your growth than your comfort. Their words may sting for a moment, but they produce wisdom over a lifetime.

Other criticism, however, comes from people who neither know you nor genuinely care about you. They may misunderstand your motives, resent your success, dislike your personality, or enjoy finding fault. If you allow every voice to carry the same weight, you'll spend your life chasing approval that can never be earned.

Here's the reality: if you stand for anything worthwhile, someone will oppose you. If you lead, someone will second-guess your decisions. If you serve others, someone will question your motives. Jesus Himself, the only perfect person who ever lived, was criticized relentlessly. If perfection couldn't escape criticism, I doubt any of us

will, whether we are in ministry, politics, business, or anything else that requires leadership.

Every person needs a small circle of trusted voices. A handful of trusted counselors in your inner circle who love you enough to tell you the truth and care enough to help you become better. These are people who celebrate your victories without jealousy, confront your blind spots without cruelty, and pray for you when you don't even know they are praying. Their words carry weight because their hearts have proven trustworthy.

Don't spend your energy counting the critics. Weigh them. Ask yourself: Does this person genuinely want God's best for me? Have they earned the right to speak into my life? Have they consistently demonstrated wisdom, integrity, and love? If the answer is yes, listen carefully. If the answer is no, don't allow an unqualified voice to determine the direction of your life. In the end, it isn't the volume of criticism that matters; it's the weight of the one speaking.

What Does 'Nunc Pro Tunc' Mean?

Lawyers sometimes use Latin phrases that sound mysterious but describe simple ideas. "Nunc pro tunc," which translates to "now for then," is one of those phrases. When a court enters an order nunc pro tunc, it is correcting the record today to reflect something that actually happened earlier but was not properly recorded at the time. The key concept is accuracy, not revision—nunc pro tunc is meant to make the paperwork match reality, not to change history or create a new ruling after the fact.

Courts use nunc pro tunc orders for clerical mistakes, omissions, and timing glitches. Maybe a judge announced a ruling from the bench in May, but the written order did not get entered until July; the nunc pro tunc order can state the judgment is effective as of the May date that the decision was actually made.

Perhaps a sentencing order forgot to include pre-trial jail credit that everyone agreed on; a nunc pro tunc order can add that credit because it reflects what truly occurred. In civil cases, it might fix a typo in a name, dollar figure, or legal description that the judge already intended to



By Jedidiah McKeenhan
jed@attorney-knoxville.com

enter correctly, but primarily it is meant to enter orders in this manner: "The judge made his ruling in May, we got the written order done in July, but we want this Order to show that it took effect in May."

There are limits. A court cannot use nunc pro tunc to make a new decision and pretend it was made earlier, to gain jurisdiction it did not have, or to expand someone's rights after the deadline for doing so has passed. The order must be grounded in the existing record—docket entries, transcripts, minute orders, or other reliable proof that shows what actually happened. If there is no evidence that the earlier action occurred, nunc pro tunc is not appropriate. If you see "nunc pro tunc" in an order, it is not a trapdoor or a loophole. It is simply the court saying, "we are entering this now to reflect what should have been in the record then," ensuring the paperwork lines up with the reality of the case.

Jedidiah McKeenhan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including family law, criminal, and personal injury. Visit attorney-knoxville.com.

A look inside the Mabry-Hazen House

Continued from page 1

contains four bedrooms, including a children's bedroom and a small office.

Most houses of that time period did not have closets. However, Mabry-Hazen has six closets. These "closets" were not used to hang up clothes; they were each used to store a chamber pot, so in effect Mabry-Hazen had indoor bathrooms.

Around 1890, an addition was built onto the rear of the first floor that contains an office, a bathroom with a claw-foot bathtub, a butler's pantry and a kitchen. The butler's pantry contains an electric toaster and a 1910 electric waffle iron.

The Mabry-Hazen House is located at 1711 Dandridge Ave. in Knoxville. Scheduled tours are offered March through December. On Mondays

and Wednesdays, tours are available every hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, tours are available at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Friday's hourly tours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays are by appointment only. The house is closed on Sundays and major holidays. The admission fee is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Children under 13 are admitted free.

ONLINE ONLY REAL ESTATE AUCTION

**1717 W RACCOON VALLEY DRIVE
HEISKELL, TN 37754**

19+/- ACRES OFFERED IN 3 TRACTS



**BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST AT 12PM-NOON (ET)**

**OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH AT 12PM-NOON (ET)**

LOT 1 - 5.00+/- ACRES WITH TRIPLEX

-Currently rented for \$2,400 per month

-Approx. 3729+/- SF

-181' +/- of Road Frontage

LOT 2 - 6.54+/- ACRES

-Mostly wooded Land

-40.31' +/- of Road Frontage

LOT 3 - 7.45+/- ACRES

Combination of cleared and wooded land

Gorgeous homesite locations

-144.84' +/- of Road Frontage

**FOR MORE DETAILS, TERMS & ONLINE BIDDING VISIT:
www.powellauction.com**

POWELL 6729 PLEASANT RIDGE ROAD
AUCTION & REALTY, LLC KNOXVILLE, TN 37921
KENNY PHILLIPS, AUCTIONEER - LIC # 2385 865-938-3403

Sabbath, August 15, 2026

Anchors of Antiquity: Archaeology and the Bible

Special Presentation: Kurt Hoyer

Presentation Schedule

9:45am - 10:45am Anchors in the Old Testament A look at rock-solid archaeological finds from the 3,000-year history of the Hebrew Bible that etch biblical stories into historical fact.	11:15am - 12:00pm Archaeology and the New Testament An investigation into 1st century artifacts that speak to the reliable portrayal of the world of Jesus and His early followers.	12:00pm - 1:00pm Digging Up God: The Archaeology of YHWH A study of the "tetragrammaton" (YHWH) in ancient inscriptions and what pottery and stone remnants reveal about the history of worship in Israel.
---	--	---

About the Speaker

Featured Speaker: Kurt Hoyer | 40+ Years of Biblical Context Study

Kurt began excavating at Hazor in 2006 and has since contributed to major digs including Lachish and Abel Beth Macaach. An experienced archaeologist with a Masters from Hebrew University Jerusalem and a former U.S. diplomat who has excavated at sites like Shiloh, Jerusalem, and Tel Bet Mirsim.

Global Perspective: Kurt served the State Department in Mexico, Cyprus, Israel, Kenya, Afghanistan, and the Philippines, bringing a unique cultural depth to his scriptural analysis.

Anchors of Antiquity is a special presentation series exploring ancient artifacts and ruins to demonstrate the historical reliability of the Old and New Testaments. Led by Kurt Hoyer, it bridges the gap between ancient material culture and modern faith, aiming to move beyond "myths" to show that the people, places, and events described in the Bible are firmly anchored in historical fact.

Join us for this FREE EVENT! *No request for money, No offering plate passed!*

Seventh Day Christian Assembly
1700 Woodson Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920
(at Maryville Pike in South Knoxville)
We look forward to seeing you there!

The Reece Committee II

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Carroll Reece, congressman from Tennessee's First Congressional District, a 30-year veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Republican National Committeeman for the Volunteer State, headed a special select committee. Originally, the committee had been headed by E. E. "Gene" Cox of Georgia. Cox had died on December 24, 1952, of a heart attack, and the Select Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations and Comparable Organizations released a report which found nothing amiss and concluded, "So far as we can ascertain, there is little basis for the belief expressed in some quarters that foundation funds are being diverted from their intended use."

While Carroll Reece rarely spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives, nor did he seek to pass much in the way of legislation, he was one of the prototypes who pioneered and stressed prompt service to constituents like his successors Jimmy Quillen and John and Jimmy Duncan in the neighboring Second Congressional District. That same stressing of service to the people back home made him highly popular with the people of upper East Tennessee, where he built an effective political organization. Reece was also a nationally recognized figure and the most prominent Republican in the South.

Congressman Reece was dissatisfied with the final report and felt the investigation had not been as thorough as it ought to have been and had been hurriedly concluded due to Cox's final illness and death. In 1952, the Republicans won both houses of Congress and the White House. Reece continued to push for the investigation to be completed, and the select committee was revived under the Tennessean.

In seeking to reauthorize the committee, Congressman Reece flatly said that "some of these institutions support efforts to overthrow our government and to undermine our American way of life." Pressing the need for further investigation, Reece insisted, "Some officers of large and supposedly legitimate foundations were Communists." The Tennessee congressman also stated others who were Communists had received grants from foundations. Reece pointed to some organizations which had been identified by the office of the U.S. Attorney General or Congressional committees as being "pro-Communist."

The House of Representatives agreed to revive the committee, installing Carroll Reece as chairman. The GOP

members of the special committee were Reece, Jesse P. Wolcott of Michigan and Angier Goodwin of Massachusetts. Two Democrats were also members of the special committee, Gracie Pfost of Idaho and Wayne Hays of Ohio. Mrs. Pfost was a highly popular congresswoman who had been a local official, having served as recorder of deeds and the treasurer for her county before beating GOP incumbent John T. Wood in the 1952 election.

The House appropriated \$50,000 in 1953, followed by an additional \$65,000 a year later for the committee to hire staff and do its work. Norman Dodd, who had enjoyed a long career as a banker, was hired as the chief of staff for the special committee. The committee was sharply divided along partisan lines, and Wayne Hays particularly enjoyed picking at people. Hays was quite likely the biggest bully in the House of Representatives, who seemed to delight in torturing those over whom he held some power. Years later, William "Fishbait" Miller, the longtime Doorkeeper of the U.S. House of Representatives, recalled Hays having no peer at "bitching and name-calling." Miller wrote that when Hays was forced out of Congress by a sex scandal, there was not enough sympathy collectively to form a single teardrop.

Amongst Hays's name-calling was his accusation that Carroll Reece was a coward. Yet Reece was a decorated veteran of the First World War, noted for his bravery by both the governments of the United States and France. Wayne Hays, as pointed out by news columnist Westbrook Pegler, was "30 ½" years old when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Hays claimed that he had entered the armed forces on the day after, yet was released without explanation in August 1942.

A typical exchange between the two was Hays snarling, "Out where I come from, we have a saying that if a man double-crosses you once that is his fault; if he double-crosses you twice, that is your fault. You won't get a second chance."

"Even that statement is not going to provoke the chairman," Reece replied serenely. "But no man can justifiably say that this chairman has ever double-crossed anybody or failed to keep his word."

"I am saying both," Hays spat back.

"That does not disturb me a particle," Reece said.

"Thought they had more guts in Tennessee," Hays sneered.

The Tennessean with a sunny disposition shrugged off the bullying of Wayne Hays, dismissing the



AP WIRE PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Congressman Carroll Reece of Tennessee at the site of the Taft Memorial in Washington, D. C., 1958.

Ohioan as having a marked inferiority complex. Reece said the abusive attitude of Hays was less pugnacity than empty bluster. "He is a big fellow," Reece cheerfully acknowledged, "but not above the neck."

When asked by friends why Reece didn't bring up his war record and medals for bravery when accused of cowardice by Hays, the Tennessean had a simple explanation. "It was all there for anyone to read who wanted to look it up. It wasn't up to me to prove I wasn't a coward."

As the committee continued hearing testimony, Hays was at his querulous best, constantly harassing both witnesses whose testimony he did not like, as well as his Republican counterparts on the committee. Hays also continuously heckled Reece as the chairman of the committee. Carroll Reece was no orator, but he was one of the best-liked members of the House and usually managed to charm the people back home with his broad grin and willingness to do all he could to help folks. Reece was especially interested in the welfare of his fellow veterans. At a time before Social Security and when no pensions were being paid to those who had served in the armed forces, disabled veterans had to seek their congressmen and senators to pass private bills providing them with a pension. During his first fifteen years in office, Carroll Reece was said to have introduced more bills for the benefit of veterans and their widows and orphans than any other single member of the House of Representatives.

The committee heard from Ken Earl, a former staff member of the Senate's Internal Security subcommittee on June 15, 1954. Earl told the committee members that he had concluded from his study of the League for Industrial Democracy, which was tax-exempt, it was "an adjunct of the Socialist Party."

The president of the Social Science Research Council, Pendleton Herring, sought out an opportunity to testify before the Reece

Committee to try and respond to criticisms made by committee staffers of his organization. Herring told committee members the Social Science Research Council was "not engaged in developing or in advancing public policies or political programs, or in directing or shaping educational objectives and policies."

Herring was providing testimony when the flamboyant Wayne Hays erupted and charged the committee with being nothing more than an "Alice-in-Wonderland" inquest "in which a verdict against foundations was rendered before the evidence was heard." Reece banged the gavel and recessed the hearing. The Tennessean said the recess was necessitated in order to "protect the Committee staff and witnesses" while trying to "maintain the dignity of the Committee."

The president of the American Council on Education, Arthur S. Adams, provided a statement to the Reece Committee saying educational organizations had, of course, received financial support from foundations as a means of keeping the federal government from controlling education in the United States. That financial support was a form of protection, Adams insisted. Adams said removing the tax-exempt status of foundations was one means of asserting the control of the federal government over education. Adams asked the Reece Committee to state "the extent to which it believes federal control of tax-exempt institutions is justifiable" by the government.

David N. Rowe, a professor at Yale University, had been a trustee of the Institute of Pacific Relations during the period of 1947 - 1950. Rowe testified that foundation grants to the Institute had benefitted "people who did not have the best interests of this country at heart." Rowe stated some foundations continued to provide funding for the Institute even after disclosures of "pro-Communist influences" at the Institute

of Pacific Relations.

Another witness, Kenneth W. Colegrove, a retired professor at Northwestern who continued teaching at Queens College, testified the Rockefeller Foundation should have conducted a thorough investigation of the Institute of Pacific Relations "when the situation was brought energetically to its attention by Alfred Kohlberg," in 1945. Kohlberg was the head of the American China Policy Association, while detractors referred to him as head of the "China lobby" for the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek.

Wayne Hays lived up to his reputation as a bully throughout the hearings. William "Fishbait" Miller recalled in his "Memoirs of the House Doorkeeper," "When it came to bitching and name-calling. . ." Hays had no peers in the House. Wayne Hays continued his bullying tactics and would later leave the House of Representatives following the revelation he had hired a secretary who could not type. Elizabeth Ray claimed Hays had not hired her for her typing skills, but rather her personal charms. "Fishbait" Miller chortled, "there was not enough sympathy to put into a teardrop in the corner of an eye" from congressmen and staff on Capitol Hill when the tale of Hays and his "sexploitation" occurred.

On July 2, 1954, the Reece Committee was done with hearings and voted, yet again along party lines, to end its hearings and ask for statements from the foundations rather than having representatives give oral testimony. The committee set a deadline of fifteen days for the foundations to submit written statements to be included in the committee's final report. Both Gracie Pfost and Wayne Hays objected, saying the foundations should be provided the opportunity to appear before the committee and give testimony. Reece snapped that the constant harassment and generally "obstructionist tactics" used by Wayne Hays made further

hearings useless.

Several leaders of various foundations and organizations, including Charles Dollard, the president of the Carnegie Corporation, Harry W. Laidler, executive director of the League for Industrial Democracy, Paul Hoffman, chairman of the Fund for the Republic, sent statements for the Reece Committee's records. Hoffman used the opportunity to attempt to rebut charges made against the Fund for the Republic and himself by Carroll Reece from a speech made by the Tennessee congressman in 1953. Reece had described the Fund for the Republic as a "king-sized Civil Rights Congress . . . given liberal respectability" through the appointment of Paul Hoffman as its head. In his own statement, Hoffman huffed that Reece's remarks would have been slanderous and the Tennessean legally liable were it not for congressional immunity. Congressmen and senators were protected from legal liability for such statements spoken on the floor of their respective houses. Hoffman decried Reece's accusation that the Fund for the Republic had been established to diminish and attack Congress for trying to get to the root of the Communist conspiracy in the country.

The 432-page report of the Reece Committee was released eight days after the U.S. Senate censured Joe McCarthy after his sometimes-baseless charges and erratic behavior in his hunt for headlines, which undermined any serious effort to discuss Communists in high places.

While the report stated with but few exceptions "foundations have not directly supported organizations which, in turn, operated to support communism," it did reach the conclusion "some of the larger foundations have directly supported 'subversion' in the true meaning of that term - - - namely, the process of undermining some of our vitally protective concepts and principles." "They have actively supported attacks upon our social and governmental system and financed the promotion of socialism and collectivist ideas," the report stated.

The fury and contempt of the left-leaning in the country was palpable. Robert Hutchins, former president of the University of Chicago, complained, "The Reece Committee achieved some of its gaudiest effects by the simple process of giving old words new definitions and then pinning the old words on the foundations."

The fun had just begun.

© 2026 Ray Hill

Come worship with us

New Beverly Baptist Church

3320 New Beverly Church Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37918
Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
www.newbeverly.org
856-546-0001

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
For transportation call 546-0001.

So Many Problems to Solve

Local, state, and federal elections are occurring this week. To be honest, I can't wait for the whole thing to be over because the ads are making me ever so slightly irritable. The same thing can be said for most of us in Tennessee and across the U.S. as well.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

businesses and PACs. Locally, we hear that some candidates for offices are too liberal to be trusted with the reins of power in Knoxville. These radicals are supposed to be dangerous because they might lead us in the wrong direction. I have no idea what all that means. In one instance, a candidate for an office serves on the school board but appeared in Nashville to show support for Governor Lee's plan to use public funds to finance vouchers for private schools. That doesn't seem to be in the best interest of the citizens of Tennessee, but I might be wrong. To be honest, the entire country appears to be in "a mell of a hess." We are in the grips of a war against a third-world country, and

so far, the U.S. is failing to bring the conflict to an end. An event that was to be over in days is still hot and in worse shape six months after the first explosion. Just today, the news reported that our munition stockpiles are depleted. How is it possible that the strongest country in the world goes into a war and runs out of "bullets?"

Medicaid has been cut by one trillion dollars, the same amount of money designated for tax cuts for some of the richest folks in the country. Next on the chopping block is drug plan subsidies for Medicare Part D. Senior citizens will experience rises in their Medicare costs, and that will impact some folks catastrophically. Once again, some individuals will have to choose between medicine and food. Of course, that big tax cut that passed Congress could have paid for this increase for the

elderly and less fortunate. The western part of this country is burning. Fires are lapping up communities as dry, hot weather makes controlling blazes almost impossible. Sadly, the government cut Forest Service funding by 43%, thereby making headway against wildfires even more difficult. I am not pushing one side over another as far as politics is concerned. However,

I am disgusted at the inability of our elected officials to take care of the most basic needs of our country and its citizens. The goals of people sent to speak for the rest of us are not to become rich, something that seems to happen too often. No, the goals of an elected government are to make sure that this country remains a leader in the world and continues to do what is in the best interests

of the people, not businesses or parties or the rich. Yes, I guess I'm an idealist, a bit naive and too critical. My worries are not for myself, or even for my generation. Instead, the concern I have is for my children and grandchildren. We owe them more than what they are receiving. Leaders, it's time to get on your feet and do your jobs, the ones we voters chose you to do.

Stormwater discussions

Cont. from page 1

Improving the capacity of pipes and drains to handle massive, sudden waves of run-off water isn't a guarantee that flash flooding can't happen. But stormwater upgrades certainly lessen the likelihood of flash flooding – and, if it happens, modern infrastructure lessens its severity.

In June, Mayor Indya Kincannon proposed – and City Council authorized – a \$598,000 competitively-bid contract with Ardurra Group to help the City follow up on its first-ever holistic stormwater system inventory and assessment.

The inventory is a money-saving tool that will help City engineers prioritize upgrades. Proactively maintaining, upgrading and replacing pipes on the front end is less expensive and less disruptive than

reacting when a pipe fails. Ardurra Group, the most responsive of three bidders, will be helping to evaluate the citywide stormwater inventory findings and identify funding options to support future maintenance and improvement.

"Some of the stormwater pieces didn't even show up on any drainage maps before now," City Stormwater Chief David McGinley said. "The inventory was a game-changer.

Now that we've got a much clearer understanding of our stormwater system – how water flows through the system – we can now prioritize upgrades where they are needed the most.

"But, that said, data is always stronger when it's reinforced with community dialogue. We hope Knoxville residents and business owners share their experiences with flooding or even near-misses at these public meetings."

CONCRETE WORLD
PROFESSIONAL CONCRETE FINISHERS

OFFERING RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

•SIDEWALKS •SLABS •DRIVEWAYS
•DECORATIVE •STAMP •FOOTERS

Serving the Knox County area for 20+ years!
Affordable Prices! FREE Estimates! Call today!

865-203-5675
Dwayne Springfield - Owner

classifieds

COIN SHOP

BLAKE and JAXON'S COIN SHOP

We Buy and Sell Gold & Silver

- GOLD
- SILVER EAGLES
- SILVER ROUNDS & BARS
- MORGAN DOLLARS
- PEACE DOLLARS
- SCRAP GOLD (Jewelry)

Call or come by and see us!
8626 Asheville Hwy - Knoxville
865-444-5176

FOR SALE BY OWNER

BOAT FOR SALE
15' PRO JON BOAT AND TRAILER. MERCURY 7.5HP ENGINE, TROLLING MOTOR, MANY EXTRAS! \$3,250
CALL 865-689-4592

FREE

18-PCS. OF 8 1/2" X 12' HARDEEBOARD SIDING.
CALL CHARLIE 865-660-3092

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

SOUTH KNOXVILLE / UT / DOWNTOWN
2 BR, 700 SQ FT APARTMENTS
\$950/ MONTH
865-573-1000

WANTED

*****WANTED*****
BROKEN PUSH & RIDING MOWERS
\$10-20 PUSH OR \$40-100 RIDING
MUST BE COMPLETE
865-416-7546
LEAVE PHONE # IF NO ANSWER

★★★ WANTED ★★★
MILITARY ANTIQUES and SOUVENIRS, ALL ERAS
ESPECIALLY WWII - VIETNAM
UNIFORMS, MEDALS, HELMETS, SWORDS, ETC.
CALL 865-368-0682

AMERICA'S ROOFING COMPANY
Family Owned & Operated - Ken L. Beaman, Owner
42 YEARS OF SERVICE QUALITY WORK & FAIR PRICES
VINYL SIDING ROOFING GUTTERING
Call to schedule a consultation!
(865) 824-8766
Or visit www.americasroofingcompany.com

Pilgrim Painting
Repaint Specialist
Commercial & Residential

NOW OFFERING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Interior/Exterior Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Staining
- Drywall & Carpentry

Serving Knoxville for 30 years
Google 5 Star Rating Licensed - Bonded - Insured
FREE ESTIMATES • 865-291-8434
www.pilgrimpaintingknoxville.com

WE BUY HOUSES!
Call us today!
865.444.8804

ALTERATIONS

JOANNE'S ALTERATIONS,
PANTS HEMMING \$5,
SPECIALIZING IN JEANS. CALL
865-805-9170

APPLIANCE REPAIR

CJ Fixit
APPLIANCE SERVICE

Are you having a problem with an appliance not working properly? Replacing an appliance is not always the best answer, and is NEVER the cheapest answer.
Give CJ a call FIRST!
A part or adjustment may be all you need to save HUNDREDS or even THOUSANDS.
CALL US TODAY!
Serving Knoxville and surrounding areas.
Major credit cards accepted.
865-895-7805

CHILD CARE

MARCIA'S LEARNING CENTER
1411 Exeter Ave, Knoxville
(865) 673-8223
Day Shift 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

ELECTRICIAN

RETIRED UNION ELECTRICIAN AVAILABLE
for service calls/small jobs.
No Job Too Small
Wayne 455-6217

ELECTRIC/PLUMBING

RETIRED ELECTRICIAN & PLUMBER
~ Licensed and Insured ~
FREE ESTIMATES!
865-705-0742

FENCING

AAA FENCING and REPAIR

No muss, No fuss!
YOU BUY IT, WE INSTALL IT!
Licensed & Insured!
865-604-6911

FENCING

BROWN'S
CUSTOM FENCING & CONSTRUCTION
TN State Contractor Lic #00049769

~ ALL TYPES OF FENCING ~
Residential, Commercial, Farm and Ranch, Pole Barns & Hoop Structures
Professional, Dependable Service!
Call 423-235-7400 or 1-800-249-6274
brownscustomfencing.com

HANDYMAN

Your Local HANDYMAN
Complete Remodeling
INTERIOR / EXTERIOR
~ Insured and Bonded ~
Call or text for your **FREE ESTIMATE**
865-888-1241

HOME IMPROVEMENT

JIM'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

40+ Years Experience
— IN ALL TYPES of —
Home Repairs & Improvement
SPRING SPECIALS!
DECKS - New and Repairs
REPLACEMENT Windows & Doors
Kitchen & Bath Updates
Free Estimates!
Schedule yours TODAY!
865-203-6143

Call or email Ruthie at
865-686-9970 or
ruthie@knoxfocus.com to place your advertisement!

PAINTING

Now Offering **SOFT-WASHING!**
We clean roofs and paint vinyl siding, too!!

Randy the Painter
BBB

Interior & Exterior Painting
Celebrating 46 years of business in 2026
Licensed and Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL 865-522-3222 or TEXT 865-455-5022
CHECK OUT OUR 5-STAR GOOGLE REVIEWS!!!
randythepainterandcrew.com

REMODELING

DECKS & FENCING
Quality, Honesty, Integrity
New Builds or Repairs
Bonded & Insured
Offering **FREE estimates!**
Call or Text
865-888-1241

ROOFING

ROOF REPAIRS, METAL; SHINGLE; RUBBER; ROOF COATING; FREE ESTIMATES.
865-705-7069

TREE SERVICES

TREE HERO
Professional Tree Service

- UTILITY LINE CLEARING
- STORM WORK
- REMOVAL SERVICE
- EXPERT PRUNING
- LAND CLEARING

Locally Owned
Licensed & Insured
FREE Estimates! Call TODAY!
865-385-9994
865-888-3580

PREVIEW STORIES FOR 2026 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Halls' football practice on the field last Wednesday was cut short by threatening lightning and a thunderstorm, causing the Red Devils to finish with weight lifting. Head Coach Brent Hughes gives his players some directions while the Red Devil on the mat looks on.

Halls has a chance to have another good season

By Steve Williams

Halls High's football season in 2025 started with three losses and ended one win away from a TSSAA state title berth.

The Red Devils lost to Oak Ridge, Gibbs and Powell right out of the gate, but battled back to reach the state semifinals. Unfortunately for Halls, however, the Red Devils lost at Sevier County.

"There are a lot of kids who have

been 3-year starters for me that are back," said Head Coach Brent Hughes. "A lot of it is on the offensive and defensive line. A lot of it also is at other defensive positions. We feel really good about our front seven. We are going to be a little youthful in the back end and skill positions. Offensively, we'll have a new quarterback."

For the most part, Halls will have a veteran team, but lost two outstanding players to graduation

in quarterback Amari Lethgo and Brody Rogers, a receiver and defensive back. Lincoln Wilson, a senior transfer, and Harrison Andriopoulos are contending for the QB job.

The Red Devils currently are being led by Jarrell Chandler, a strong safety and wide receiver, who is a Clemson commit.

Overall, Hughes said, "There's some growing that has to take place and that's the challenge,

but also the fun part.

"There's not necessarily a certain area where the team needs to improve. We just need to improve everyday and every position, because of growth. Everybody wants to talk about growth, but we've got to grow each and every day because we're in a time crunch.

"We weren't prepared last year at the start of the season and we

Continue on page 4

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Lady Bobcats preparing for big year on volleyball court

By Ken Lay

As the 2026 high school volleyball season looms, Central High School looks to be a contender for the District 3-3A championship.

The Lady Bobcats won the league's regular-season title in 2025 but were eliminated in the semifinals of the district tournament last season.

Central competes in one of the toughest districts in Tennessee. The league features Clinton, which has made the Region 2-3A tournament in each of the last three seasons and won district titles in both 2023 and 2024. Anderson County is the defending district

tournament champion after being reclassified from Class 2A. Oak Ridge also looks to be a factor under second-year coach Meghan Ellis. Gibbs is looking to bounce back after enduring some growing pains last season. Halls and Powell will also look to have an impact this season.

"We have some great teams and some great coaches," said Davidson, who begins her sixth season as head coach in Fountain City. "We're in a tough district and you have to show up every night and be ready to play."

Top players for Central include: Ally Bryant (sophomore, setter/outside hitter); Trinity

Brooks (sophomore, middle blocker); Pyper Clevinger (senior, setter/outside hitter); Kaylin Riley (senior, defensive specialist); Rhealee Haunhorst (senior, defensive specialist) and Jolie Sheddan (setter).

The Lady Bobcats have one of the most versatile rosters in the area as they have multiple six-rotation players on a squad that won the regular-season district championships.

Bryant has earned District 3-3A Hitter of the Year for the last two seasons. Last year, she had 445 kills, 126 service aces, 112 assists, 275 digs and 46 blocks. Clevinger was the

Continue on page 3

Epson Tour arrives in East Tenn.

By Ken Lay

Championship professional golf came to East Tennessee last week as the Epson Tour made a stop at Green Meadow Country Club.

The country club hosted the Smoky Mountain Championship, which was sponsored by Food City.

Tournament play began Thursday and concluded Saturday (final results were not available at press time), but assistant tournament director Stan Norris was pleased to be in the Knoxville area for high-level women's professional golf. Norris' company, TOUR Vision Promotions, is no stranger to East Tennessee. The company ran the Knoxville Open.

"We're excited to be here. We did the Knoxville Open on the Korn Ferry Tour for several years," Norris said. "We're excited to be here, to be in East Tennessee, and we're happy to have Food City as our sponsor, and we're happy to have the Boys and Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley.

"We give them a donation every year."

Like the Korn Ferry Tour, a men's professional circuit that leads directly to the PGA Tour, the Epson Tour leads female golfers to the LPGA.

"We have 144 of the best women golfers, and they're competing in Alcoa for a purse of \$250,000," Norris said. "This tour leads directly to the LPGA Tour.

"Alcoa has been great, the community has been great, and Green Meadow Country Club has been great to us."

Tournament events began Monday, Aug 3, with a practice day and a Pro-Am (which concluded Tuesday). Golfers had another practice round on Wednesday before competition began on Thursday.

Big Dreams Start with Small Steps

Build strong money habits with a KTVAECU® Spend Account and Debit Card.

Learn More!

☎ (865) 544-5400 ➡ tvacreditunion.com

Federally Insured by NCUA. Available to qualifying Members. Some restrictions may apply. Ask for details.



WEST YOUTH FOOTBALL

Planting the seeds for a new football program

By Steve Williams

The West Youth Football program, a member of the local Youth Athletic Conference (YAC), has been in existence for many years and has won many championship titles, and this season has its first flag football team for ages 3 to 6-year-olds.

“It’s giving some of the youngest athletes in our area the chance to experience teamwork, sportsmanship, and the fundamentals of football in a fun, encouraging environment,” said Katie Ingram, a parent of one of the team’s 20 players, who contacted The Knoxville Focus about the new program last week.

“These kids are just beginning their football journeys, and it’s been amazing to watch their confidence grow each week,” added Ingram. “Behind the scenes, the coaches and volunteers have worked hard to build this program from the ground up, creating an opportunity that didn’t previously exist for children this age.”

In a way, it’s like the seeds have been planted in a flower bed and this will be the first time for them to see and smell the blossoms.

“Exactly,” said head coach Devante Patrick, a former West High School player. “So far I’ve just been teaching them the fundamentals, attacking the hip, holding the ball right, down-set-hut and everybody go on hut. We get the person with the ball flag, just little stuff like that. Just been teaching them the basics and trying to make sure they get football before they move on to the next level. Because some of these kids I’m going to have next year.”

There is a big difference



PHOTOS BY STEVE WILLIAMS

West Youth head coach Devante Patrick works with his 6U flag team players during a practice session. “These kids are just beginning their football journeys ...” said Patrick.

between 3- and 6-year-olds.

“You’ve just got to learn how to balance out the emotions and stuff like that, because they are young kids and it’s their first year ever doing anything out in the hot sun. It’s kind of hard just getting even the 6-year-olds to lock in with you. They turn around and start acting like the 4-year-olds, you know, but it’s all good though. They all are learning.”

By the end of their first season, Coach Patrick said, “I just want to teach them perseverance basically. I just want them to be able to persevere through anything.”

As a parent of one of the players, Ingram ended her comments with, “I believe

this is a feel-good community story that highlights youth sports, dedicated volunteers, and the positive impact these programs have on local families.”

Taymika Patrick is the commissioner of the West youth football program, which currently also has a fifth-grade team.

The Youth Athletic Conference will begin its season Saturday. The West flag team will play its first official game at Farragut High at 8:30 a.m. West’s first home game will be on August 22, starting at 8:30.



West’s first 6U flag football team after a practice at the John Tarleton Park last week. The 20 players are: Caliyah Dorse, May’Lhni Wells, Xadrian Scott, Josiah Petitt, Jace McNair, Curtis McCalpin, Thomas White, Lakique Dorsey, Josiah Grant, Malik George, Kylan Cannon, Daniel Hardin, Anthony Adkins, Kayriss Roper, Kingston Clay, Audrey Rolden, Desiah Patrick, Kyrie Senters, Zayvon Frances and Camden Dockins. Behind the team (left to right) are assistant coach David McNilson, commissioner Tamika Patrick, head coach Devante Patrick and assistant coach Chase Wells.

PREVIEW STORIES FOR 2026 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Area football teams to have final tune-ups at area jamborees

By Ken Lay

The 2026 high school football season is looming around the corner, and area teams will have their final tune-ups at Kickoff Jamborees Aug. 13-14.

The KOC Kickoff Classic will take place on both days, with the first night of games on Aug. 13 at Halls High School beginning at 7 p.m.

On the first night, Austin-East takes on Karns. Central will play Gibbs and Carter will tangle with the host Red Devils.

The Eagles, Hornets, Bobcats and Red Devils each made the playoffs last season, while Austin-East and Karns will look to be much improved in 2026.

Games the following day will be played at Bearden High School.

Action at Bill Young Field begins with Fulton squaring off against Hardin Valley Academy. Farragut will then play West High before the evening concludes with Powell taking on the hosting Bearden Bulldogs.

The Rebels, Admirals and the Panthers all qualified for the postseason in 2025. HVA went 5-5 and had its best season in recent years, while Bearden is looking to bounce back from an 0-9 season.

Seymour will have its final tune-up at the Smoky Mountain Kick-off Football Jamboree.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. Friday at Sevier County High School. The Eagles will play a junior varsity game and a varsity game. Seymour will play a JV game against Pigeon Forge and a varsity tilt against the host Smoky Bears.

Three teams will play in the 5Star Preps Jamboree Friday at Carson-Newman University. The event will begin at 6 p.m.

Christian Academy of Knoxville will take on Jellico. Grace Christian Academy will tangle with Greeneville and Catholic will play Lakeway Christian School in the final game of the night.

Grace Christian continuing an ‘exciting time’

By Mark Nagi

It’s Year Three for head coach Justin Price and his staff at Grace Christian. And this is shaping up to be their best season yet.

“On paper, we’ve had some success,” said Price. “Two back-to-back quarterfinal appearances, two 9-win seasons. But also, I think there were areas of your program that just take time to get them to where you believe that they need to be... I think year three is a big year when you take over a program, and the success we’ve had on the field has allowed us to do some things as well, but we’re excited (about) where we are. We have got some really talented players, and a lot of those talented players have played a lot, too. So, it’s an exciting time.”

One of the newcomers at Grace is senior QB Corbin Hobson, who transferred from Farragut HS. Hobson beat out Cooper Brayman for the starting spot. Brayman started for the Rams last season and led the Rams to a memorable win over 2025 Class 5A champion Sevier County.

“Obviously, these are two high-level quarterbacks that can play,” Price said

RAMS 2026			
Fri	Aug. 28	7:00 p.m.	Carter
Fri	Sep. 4	7:00 p.m.	Chatt Christian (R)
Fri	Sep. 11	7:00 p.m.	at Silverdale (R)
Fri	Sep. 18	7:00 p.m.	at Webb (R) Rivalry Friday
Fri	Sep. 25	7:00 p.m.	Concord Christian N at Carson-Newman
Fri	Oct. 2	7:00 p.m.	Boyd Buchanan (R)
Thu	Oct. 8	7:00 p.m.	Sevier County Rivalry Thursday
Thu	Oct. 15	7:00 p.m.	CAK (R) Rivalry Thursday
Fri	Oct. 23	7:00 p.m.	at Lakeway Chrstn (R)
Fri	Oct. 30	7:00 p.m.	at Notre Dame (R)

(R)=Region game

of Hobson and Brayman. “Hobson has good size and great arm strength. But he’s picked up on the offense really well and throws the ball well. His timing continues to improve. His accuracy is there... by the time you’re a senior, the game is getting slower for you. You’ve experienced a lot. A lot of times those moments don’t get too big or too low for them. And I think we’ve been able to see a lot of that in Corbin since he’s been in our program and through the scrimmages in the spring and the 7 on 7s this summer. Very mature and I think obviously that comes from a lot of his experience.”

Price added, “It’s rare to

have two high-level quarterbacks like this on the same roster in high school. So, we’re blessed for that. But Cooper will be a guy, too, if we ever need him. No doubt he’s going to be ready as well.”

Maybe the biggest story in Grace football is the return of standout playmaker Terrion Thomas, who missed the entire 2025 season due to a foot injury. Thomas, who excels as both running back and wide receiver, has seven scholarship offers. Thomas should see that list grow. Two schools close to home that came calling were Carson-Newman and ETSU. The biggest offer comes from defending national

Price added, “It’s rare to

champion Indiana.

“Terrion has been great, and he’s pretty much back to 100% now,” said Price. “He went through spring practice with us and then this summer, and he continues to improve. As good as he was as a sophomore, I think now he’s even better and a lot of that is just the mindset he had once he got the news about his injury last year and finding out that he was going to miss his whole junior season. The maturity he’s shown and how he responded to it, and also personally just to make sure that he can come back and play the level he wants to. Terrion’s a gamer. He is an elite player. We know that. Obviously, a lot of our offense will go through him just because he’s so dynamic. Terrion means a lot not just to our football program, but really to our whole school. What he’s done here and how he represents us, and I think he’s going to be a guy that’s going to be obviously fun to watch this season.”

Grace Christian returns nine starters on each side of the football. The Rams’ season begins on August 28 at Carter.

PREVIEW STORIES FOR 2026 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Bearden brings back experience

By David Klein

Despite going winless last year, the Bearden Bulldogs bring back several players on both sides of the ball. Experience may be the best teacher for Bearden this year as Brad Taylor returns for his second season as head coach in his second tenure at Bearden. Taylor, a Bearden alum, previously coached Bearden from 2007-2013 and coached at Karns from 2016-2022. The Bulldogs return seven players on offense.

One of those returning starters, senior Paxton Parrott, returns at running back for Bearden and brings some much-needed experience. "It's a moderately sized senior class,"

BULLDOGS 2026			
Fri	Aug. 21	7:00 p.m.	West <i>Rivalry Friday</i>
Fri	Aug. 28	7:00 p.m.	Alcoa
Fri	Sep. 4	7:00 p.m.	at Maryville (R)
Fri	Sep. 11	7:00 p.m.	at Science Hill
Thu	Sep. 17	7:00 p.m.	Hardin Valley (R) <i>Rivalry Thursday</i>
Fri	Sep. 25	7:00 p.m.	at Farragut (R)
Fri	Oct. 2	7:00 p.m.	Oak Ridge (R)
Fri	Oct. 16	7:00 p.m.	Cleveland (R)
Fri	Oct. 23	7:00 p.m.	at Dobyns-Bennett
Fri	Oct. 30	7:00 p.m.	at Bradley Central (R)
(R)=Region game			

Parrott said. "I think we're pretty close in that class and I feel like that's good for team chemistry, for leadership. It's good for culture."

Junior Aidan Thacker returns as quarterback for the Bulldogs and started some games last year

for Bearden. "He's a great young man," Taylor said. "Smart kid. He's worked hard, so he's been a lot of fun to coach."

Regarding the offensive line, the Bulldogs have three linemen returning, and the Bulldogs are in a little bit better of a position

at the offensive line than last season, according to Taylor. "We're still like everybody, a little thin up front. We're still young up front, but we're in a better position than we were at this time last year," Taylor said.

Defensively, the Bulldogs bring back some much-needed experience. "Paxton (Parrott) plays at linebacker," Taylor said. "We've got a couple of other guys at linebacker. Even though they may not have started, they played a lot."

The secondary also brings back experience. "Secondary-wise, Connor Gilbreath and Tyler Tummins, they've both started in the secondary

so they're very experienced guys," Taylor said.

So far, the defense has impressed Taylor heading into August and the regular season. "I've really enjoyed what we've done this summer on defense," Taylor said. "I've been pleased on what it looks like in our seven-on-seven, though that's just half the game."

Regarding the schedule, the Class 6A-Region 2 Bulldogs open with two non-region games against West and Alcoa. The Bulldogs have opened with West on Saturdays for several years, but this year the game against the Rebels moves to Friday, August 21.

"It kind of bit us last year," Taylor said, of the weather

forcing the cancellation of last year's West game. "It didn't give us any wiggle room if we got weather. So I personally like it on Friday just in case something happens, so you're gonna be able to get the game in. So that's going to be on TV, so that'll be an exciting start."

After playing two tough non-region games, the Bulldogs will enter the gauntlet of Region 2-6A. "Our region is strong," Taylor said.

"You've got Maryville, you've got Oak Ridge. Hardin Valley is going to be a good football team. Farragut and then, of course, Bradley Central as well. They've got a good, good football team down there."

Halls has a chance to have another good season

Cont. from page 1

may not be really prepared this year, but we are going to try and change that. To me the message is: grow each and every day. We're trying to get this team to be the best it can be in every match and grow from every match."

Chandler has been in the news a lot.

"He's a really good high school football player," said Hughes. "Somebody that's got a great opportunity to continue his career in college and we're excited for him. Somebody that we're going to lean heavily on and be a difference maker. But the challenge

for him is to help raise the level of his teammates and be a leader and help his teammates grow around him.

"The three players I brought to media day – outside linebacker and receiver Carson Pearce, defensive end and tight end Travis Brasfield and center Dan Brittain – are 3-year starters and have played together since they were little. So what you're hoping is that those relationships bond and continue to grow and we have the best team that we can possibly have."

Others among Halls' leading players are ILB/TE

Gavin Self, OT/DE Hudson Limbaugh and CB/Slot Receiver Eddy Soto.

Chandler was on vacation when the KFOA Media Day was held this year, said Hughes. "He's a special player and a highly, highly recruit."

It's been about three weeks since the media day, and the Red Devils have continued to get better, pointed out Hughes.

"We've got some young kids stepping up and started two freshmen in our scrimmage against Anderson County. I thought they did well, so we're going to need some youthful guys to step up with our

older kids that we've got. We're just trying to get it all to come together."

Chandler has been doing "great," added the Halls coach. "He's leading our football team and had a big touchdown against AC in our scrimmage, so we're going to need more plays like that from him."

Hughes said he doesn't know how far his team can go this year.

"To me it's about staying healthy and growing. You don't want to reach your peak too early. You want to keep getting better each week and growing as a football team, but staying healthy is going to be

RED DEVILS 2026				
Fri	Aug. 21	7:00 p.m.	Oak Ridge	
Fri	Aug. 28	7:00 p.m.	at Gibbs Rivalry Friday	
Fri	Sep. 4	7:00 p.m.	Powell (R)	
Fri	Sep. 11	7:00 p.m.	Concord Christian	
Fri	Sep. 18	7:00 p.m.	at William Blount (R)	
Fri	Sep. 25	7:00 p.m.	at West (R)	
Fri	Oct. 2	7:00 p.m.	Karns (R)	
Fri	Oct. 16	7:00 p.m.	at Central (R)	
Fri	Oct. 23	7:00 p.m.	Campbell Co. (R)	
Thu	Oct. 29	7:00 p.m.	at Clinton (R)	
(R)=Region game				

important.

"We've just got to try to put together the best team we can each and every week. You know, we'll have a tough schedule, and of course a lot of teams have tough schedules. But if

we can just keep getting better each week and stay healthy, I think we have a chance to be a good football team this year."

Halls will host Oak Ridge in its season opener on Aug. 21.



MOLD TOXTM+
"Breathe Healthy"

BASEMENT OR CRAWLSPACE LEAKING??

Don't overpay the nationwide companies by the thousands when MOLD TOX, LLC can install a dry-up system for a fraction of the cost!

BBB Accredited Business with A + Rating

TN Charter #4410

(865) 524-1227 (865) 453-1880

www.moldtox.com

Ad space donated by The Knoxville Focus.



Young-Williams Animal Center



MAXINE – 5 years old, 57 lbs.
Maxine is a large mixed-breed dog with a warm brown coat. She is looking for a loving home where she can feel safe, settled, and cared for. Maxine is ready to meet a family who will give her the fresh start she deserves.

JACKSON – 3 years old, 60 lbs.
Meet Jackson, a handsome large mixed-breed dog with a beautiful brown-and-white coat and a big heart to match. Jackson is a wonderful companion ready to share life with a loving family. He's looking for a forever home where he can enjoy companionship, affection, and plenty of happy moments with his people.



Young-Williams Animal Center **865.433.9922**
3201 Division Street, Knoxville, TN 37919 **10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily**
www.young-williams.org *Closed 1-2 p.m. for animal quiet time*



TALK RADIO **FM 92.3** **AM 760**



THE SCOTT JENNINGS
COMMON SENSE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE PODCAST

The Scott Jennings Show
3:00-5:00 AM



We collect coffee cups

More Than
A Day Away



By Mike Steely

Several years ago, I asked what Focus readers collected, and the answers ran the gamut. My wife and I continue to collect, and one of my favorite things is coffee cups.

Each cup in our wide collection represents trips, events, people and places we want to recall. A glance at just one section of our collection, sitting on two long kitchen shelves, brings back memories.

We have whale cups from viewing them from boats and when my wife petted a Beluga at the Atlanta Aquarium.

Our Knoxville Focus cup, given by the publisher to employees and advertisers, sits inside a plastic bag in a place of honor to remind me of my years of reporting and the newspaper's history in Knoxville.

Our Quebec cup helps us recall a camping trip we made to Canada years ago, when we went to Montreal and the coast. It was a great and long venture.

Our Lincoln Memorial University Museum cup brings back memories of touring that informative building in Harrogate. It also brings back memories of a visit many years ago to the Ford Theater, Lincoln's birthplace, and his grave.

We have a cup from Pickett State Park, where



We have hundreds of coffee cups we collect, lining two shelves with memories of places and experiences we've shared.

we walked through cliffs, rock shelters and arches. We've visited most of Tennessee's state parks and will buy cups or buttons whenever we see them on sale.

We have a rather generic camping vehicle cup to remind us of the many camping trips we've made in various RVs we've owned over the years.

Among the large

collection is a cup commemorating the total eclipse we saw in 2024, a Tabasco sauce cup from our visit to their plant in Louisiana, a London cup from a vacation there that

my wife gifted our youngest son and me, and several cups from state and national parks.

I have never counted the number of cups, and the collection continues to grow. We have a few cups of places we haven't visited, like our Alaska cup, but even that is on our bucket list. And there's a box of coffee cups in storage that we either didn't have room on the two long shelves for them or that they are duplicates.

In more than 60 years of marriage and almost 30 years living in Knoxville, we have collected other things as well, including tourist and political buttons, trinkets, keepsakes, Coast Guard hats, books, DVDs, 8-tracks and neckties.

I don't think of our many collections as things but as memories.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GAYLE EVANS DOCKET NUMBER 92817-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of July, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of GAYLE EVANS, who died on June 10, 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 22 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF GAYLE EVANS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARK TREADWAY, EXECUTOR
8205 RICHLAND COLONY ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

M. CATHERINE WARBROD, ATTORNEY
10805 KINGSBON PIKE, SUITE 200
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PATRICIA EDELENE FORD DOCKET NUMBER 92858-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of August, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PATRICIA EDELENE FORD, who died July 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 the first publication; or

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

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

This the 4th day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF PATRICIA EDELENE FORD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JANICE RAY
1431 ELLIS LOOP
SEVIERVILLE, TN 37876

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WALTER R. GAWRYLA DOCKET NUMBER 92766-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of July, 2026, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of WALTER R. GAWRYLA, who died April 11, 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 15th day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF WALTER R. GAWRYLA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARTHA F. EARL, ADMINISTRATRIX
9322 BARRINGTON BLVD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JANICE LYN GRAY DOCKET NUMBER 92862-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of July, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JANICE LYN GRAY, who died June 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 31 day of July, 2026.

ESTATE OF JANICE LYN GRAY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JAMES M. BEAM, CO-EXECUTOR
BARBIE L. BEAM, CO-EXECUTOR
701 BRIXWORTH BLVD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLES E. HARRIS DOCKET NUMBER 92873-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of August, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CHARLES E. HARRIS, who died July 9, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1)(A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of 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 3 day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLES E. HARRIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TAMMY MOTTER, EXECUTRIX
4405 TWIN PINES DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELEANOR DOWLING JONES DOCKET NUMBER 92790-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 29th day of July, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELEANOR DOWLING JONES, who died on June 4, 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 29th day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF ELEANOR DOWLING JONES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
PERSHING MORGAN JONES, JR.
14 VINE STREET
HAWTHORN WOODS, IL 60047

MARK E. TILLERY, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 12257
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LYNN P. MCGINNIS DOCKET NUMBER 92431-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of July, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of LYNN P. MCGINNIS, who died January 10, 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 31 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF LYNN P. MCGINNIS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DIANE WEST
2000 BRADSHAW GARDEN ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SUE MORTON DOCKET NUMBER 92734-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of July, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of SUE MORTON, who died on June 6, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 22 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF SUE MORTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JENNIFER KAY ORLANDI
612 ATLANTIC AVE.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DOROTHY EVELYN O'TOOLE DOCKET NUMBER 92789-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of July, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of DOROTHY EVELYN O'TOOLE, who died June 13, 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 31 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY EVELYN O'TOOLE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KIMBERLY EVELYN REASONER
11526 KITTREDGE STREET
COMMERCE CITY, CO 80022

MARK E. TILLERY, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 12257
KNOXVILLE, TN 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH TERRY SMITH DOCKET NUMBER 92775-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of July, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ELIZABETH TERRY SMITH, who died May 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 22 day of July, 2026.

ESTATE OF ELIZABETH TERRY SMITH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JORDAN P. SMITH, ADMINISTRATOR
123 AZALEA CIRCLE
HARRIMAN, TN 37748

MELINDA BUCK BROWN, ATTORNEY
162 TALMEADA ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF REBECCA FOX STOOTTS DOCKET NUMBER 92837-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of July, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of REBECCA FOX STOOTTS, who died May 17, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 22 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF REBECCA FOX STOOTTS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SUZANNA F. VICARS
900 S. GAY ST., STE. 2400
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

O. E. SCHOW, IV, ATTORNEY

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CLAY EDWARD STREVEL DOCKET NUMBER 92774-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 31 day of July, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of CLAY EDWARD STREVEL, who died June 18, 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 31 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF CLAY EDWARD STREVEL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN PORTER STREVEL, EXECUTOR
2305 HIGHLAND DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GEORGIA ANN VALENTINE DOCKET NUMBER 92832-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 22 day of July, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of GEORGIA ANN VALENTINE, who died on June 25, 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 22 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF GEORGIA ANN VALENTINE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
GARY LYNN VALENTINE
1730 HALEY GLENN LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELVA LOUISE [HAGA] VAUGHAN DOCKET NUMBER 92847-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 3 day of August, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELVA LOUISE [HAGA] VAUGHAN, who died July 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 3 day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF ELVA LOUISE [HAGA] VAUGHAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARK SHAWN VAUGHAN, EXECUTOR
11707 JEFFREY LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

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

BID 3758, CONTRACTOR AND MULTIFAMILY CONTRACTOR SERVICES FOR CAC, Due 9/9/26

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Bids – KCDC, the Public Housing Authority for Knoxville & Knox County, posts all of its solicitations at www.kcdc.org/procurement. Click on 'Open Solicitations' and follow the link.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Knoxville-Knox County Continuum of Care Board Meeting
When: August 20, 2026, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Where: United Way of Greater Knoxville, 1301 Hannah Avenue
Details: Meeting is open to the public.
To sign up for public forum, please email office@knoxtnhousing.org.
Agenda available by August 13 at knoxtnhousing.org

PUBLIC NOTICE - SEEKING RESUMÉS

The Knoxville Commission shall receive letters and resumés/credentials from candidates seeking an appointment to one (1) vacancy on the Knoxville Board of Construction Appeals, with a term to expire December 31, 2032. **Candidate must be a registered design professional with architectural experience.** Resumés should be submitted by mail, fax, e-mail or hand-delivered no later than Friday, **August 21, 2026 at 4:00 pm** to:

Office of the Knoxville Commission
Suite 603, City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: 215-2534
Fax: 215-2038
E-mail: commission@knoxcounty.org

The Knoxville Commission will interview candidates at the Commission Optional Agenda Review meeting on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

The Commission's appointment shall be considered during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Knoxville Commission on Monday, August 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City-County Building, 400 West Main Street.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT THEIR MONTHLY ZONING MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026, AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE MAIN ASSEMBLY ROOM, CITY-COUNTY BUILDING, 400 MAIN STREET, KNOXVILLE, TN.

FOR INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS ITEM PLEASE VISIT <https://commission.knoxcountytn.gov/> OR VISIT THE COMMISSION OFFICE IN SUITE 603 OF THE CITY-COUNTY BUILDING. EMAIL COMMISSION AT commission@knoxcounty.org OR CALL 865-215-2534.

USE ON REVIEW
7-B-26-UR – THOMAS M. HALE
/VULCAN LANDS, INC.

Request for a Conditional Use Permit for mining and mineral extraction (quarry) expansion in A (Agricultural) district. Property is located at O. 1624 Graybeal Road / Parcel ID 129 080 (partial), 08001, pursuant to Knoxville Zoning Ordinance Section 4.50.02.B. (Commission District 6)