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Opposition to Flock cameras unites Knox Commission

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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A special work session about Knox County's increasing use of Flock cameras last week found members of the county commission united in their opposition to the use of the surveillance system by the sheriff's department.

The meeting, called to discuss District 8 Commissioner Adam Thompson's emergency ordinance on the matter, saw two Flock executives speak about the camera's capabilities with claims that the cameras have solved 10% of the crime in the nation.

Alex Guth, Flock's national sales director, and Trevor Chandler, Flock's director of public

affairs, said the observation cameras do not violate a person's 4th Amendment right and do not track a person. They said that a local police department decides how to share the information, which is deleted after 30 days unless it is used to follow up on a crime.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who originally signed off

on a Flock contract thanks to a state grant of \$1.5 million for public safety, issued a 30-day cancellation of the agreement on August 12th after learning of the capabilities of the cameras. Currently, the Knox County Sheriff's Office operates 143 Flock cameras, with plans to expand the number of cameras and extend the contract.

Law Director David Buuck told the meeting that KCSO may have violated county purchasing policy and that the Flock company is currently operating in the county without a valid agreement.

Thompson's emergency ordinance proposes to add a new article to the Knox County Code establishing limitations on

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Declining enrollment cutting into school funding

By Mike Steely
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Knox County Schools Financial Director Ron McPherson reported to the County Commission Finance Committee last week that the school budget is "pretty stable" with a balance a bit lower than last year.

He cited the state funding being less because of declining enrollment and said the system relies on the state for about 50% of its budget. That funding is based on enrollment numbers. He noted an increase in school funds due to a 4% increase in sales tax. The system gets about 85% of its annual revenue from the combination of sales tax and state funding.

District Nine Commissioner Andy Fox asked about estimates of future enrollment and noted that the nation's reproductive rate is about 1.8 children per family, down from a higher number per household in past years. McPherson said he didn't want to "get too far ahead" with predictions of student population, but noted the system is "aware of challenges ahead."

Knox County Finance Director Chris Caldwell reported that county revenue is about \$3.7 million ahead of last year, with Hotel-Motel Taxes adding \$1 million more than expected. He said the county's budget surplus is shrinking and solid waste revenue is down about \$1 million, with the county looking for options.

Caldwell said sales tax collections beat expectations so far at \$15.9 million. He noted that new property taxes are going out, but the rate continues at \$1.5540 per. The source of increased revenue is coming from new construction. The county is expecting a 1.5 to 2% growth in revenue in 2027.

He also reported an increase in wheel tax and local court collections.

RIBBON CUT FOR HERO'S HILL



PHOTOS BY JAMIE SCHNELL

Mayor Jacobs joined local leaders, project partners and community members to cut the ribbon on Hero's Hill Thursday morning. The property features 20 tiny homes and a community center that will provide safe, stable and dignified housing for veterans.

Welcome Home, Veterans

By Jamie Schnell
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Mayor Glenn Jacobs hosted the grand opening of Hero's Hill—a community of homes and new beginnings for veterans who have experienced homelessness—last Thursday morning. Many families, veterans and supporters gathered as Mayor Jacobs spoke with heartfelt conviction, sharing his dream of a place where veterans could not only find shelter, but rediscover dignity, friendship and purpose. This vision became reality through the tireless efforts of local leaders, passionate students and dedicated community organizations, all working hand in hand.

More than 140 veterans in Knox County are homeless, and the community hopes to expand Hero's Hill to welcome even more veterans from across Tennessee. Each of the 20 new tiny homes was built to be more than just a shelter, offering accessible ramps and stairs, a comfortable living area and

kitchen, a quiet bedroom, and a private bathroom. At the center of the community is a gathering space with a gym and laundry facilities, designed for connection and support. Many people helped build these homes, including students from Knox County Schools' Career and Technical Education program and the Knox County Detention Center.

The ribbon-cutting was filled with patriotic pride, featuring the presentation of the flag and colors, the national anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and an invocation that set a hopeful tone. The program included tributes and stories from leaders and advocates, creating a strong sense of community and appreciation.

WBIR's Jon Becker welcomed the guests, setting a heartfelt tone for the day. Distinguished speakers followed, including Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who shared personal stories of his family's military service and expressed his hope that Hero's Hill would stand as a lasting

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Above: Twenty tiny homes and a community center were brought to life with help from Knox County Schools' Career and Technical Education students, who gained hands-on experience in skilled trades. Right: Vietnam veteran Jim Roper salutes the flag during last week's ceremony to open Hero's Hill.



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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Elegiac Homage

We lost a great lady last week. Dolly Parton belonged to the world, but we East Tennesseans considered her our own. Her Smoky Mountains were mine as well. And like her mountains, her music and life are for the ages.

I had begun a different essay, but how could I not pay homage to Dolly?

The Psalmist sang, "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty if our strength endures (Psalm 90:10). Dolly Parton lived long and large, touching the hearts of so many. When my daughter heard of Dolly's passing, she said, "Dolly is eternal," and I agree.

I have read that younglings - especially boys - consider themselves immortal and bulletproof. I did some foolish things when I was younger and survived through the grace of God.

Actually, when I was a kid, I never thought about death, but now it has become real with the loss of friends and loved ones and special people. I did not personally know Dolly, but like everyone else, I mourn her passing.

All living things on this earth die. And the end of Dolly Parton's earthly life causes us to think of our own mortality. We Christians hold to the belief that our essence, our mind, our soul transcends this earthly existence. We trust in the promises Jesus made, as told in the Gospels.

There is no earthly proof of this; it is a statement of faith and trust. The Greek word *pistis* can contextually mean either faith or trust. Sometimes I stand on faith and sometimes on trust. I have faith and trust in Jesus more than the so-called

wisdom and machinations of man. This faith and trust is a better way to live and there is the "hope that does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).

Perhaps the most famous soliloquy in literature occurs in Shakespeare's play Hamlet. The prince of Denmark muses existentially, "To be, or not to be, that is the question." As Hamlet considers the injustices and struggles of life, he considers escaping into death's eternal sleep. But he doesn't give up and decides to "take up arms against a sea of troubles and end them." That's where I am these days with my electronic pen, while holding to the promises of Jesus.

Dolly said, "I don't do politics; I'm an entertainer." Her life was one of witness through her music, philanthropy and kindness. The apostle Paul wrote that all of us have differing gifts. I love Dolly's music and admire her accomplishments and Christian witness. She will always be special.

Ideology can be defined as a set of principles. To be principled or un-principled, that is the Hamlet-like question. Dolly obviously had bedrock principles of faith, fidelity and generosity. By contrast, the self-serving

ideological huckster Bernie Sanders preaches socialism/communism, yet has become a millionaire with at least three homes on a congressional salary.

Back in the days when Saturday Night Live was funny, I loved the segments they did called Celebrity Jeopardy. The character playing Sean Connery taught me the word mountebank, the term he used for Will Ferrell portraying Alex Trebek. A mountebank is an unscrupulous, often flamboyant charlatan.

My castigation of the avuncular communist could be said of most of the Washington Democrats and all of the DSA Jacobin radicals like Hassan Piker. These charlatans preach the "virtues" of socialism to "useful idiots," but are actually wolves in sheep's clothing. They are unprincipled ideologues who are antisemites and promote abolishing the presidency, the Supreme Court and the Constitution. They champion open borders to import mobs of illegals who will become the equivalent of slaves as in the pre-Civil War South.

The radicals promise Medicare for all (Obamacare on steroids). I paid into the Medicare system for 50

years before I became eligible. And I still pay monthly premiums. Like freedom, Medicare is not free. And if illegals and those who have not contributed are thrust to the head of the line, the system will collapse. But perhaps this is the fulfillment of the Cloward-Piven strategy to overload the system and promote its collapse.

Even the Social Security system is going broke. The so-called "third rail of politics" is something that is so politically charged that it cannot be addressed. The term third rail derives from the electrified third rail of a subway system. Our leaders' profligate spending and failure to address reality are leading us to collapse.

The traditional elegy is a poem or song expressing sorrow. However, an elegy can also be used more broadly, as I do so in this homage (public tribute) to Dolly.

But I take this opportunity and forum to also pen an elegy to "The Death of Common Sense in America" (Philip K. Howard's book title). It is my hope that America will choose common sense instead of communism in the upcoming elections. I am sad that so many have lost their

common sense perspective, which is largely driven by perverse ideology and sick hatred of President Trump.

Dolly is free of the concerns of this world. It is for us the living to use common sense and the timeless principles of faith, family and fidelity to resist the evil that threatens us.

In celebration of Dolly's life and my hope, it seems fitting to close with lines from "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran:

"In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gates to eternity. For what is it to die, but to stand naked in the wind and melt into the sun? And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides that it may rise and expand, and seek God unencumbered? Only when you drink from the river of silence, shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the Earth shall claim your limbs, then you shall truly dance."

Bon voyage, Dolly.

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

Opposition to Flock cameras unites Knox Commission

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surveillance technology and supports Glenn's cancellation of the Flock agreement.

Several commissioners voiced their support of cancelling the Flock contract as well.

Commissioner Rhonda Lee of District 7 said the contract with Flock and the county was "not transparent" and no mention of the cameras was in the original agreement.

District 4 Commissioner Shane Jackson asked the Flock officials if they had seen the mayor's cancellation letter, and both

replied they have not. He also questioned the county's cost in maintaining the camera system and who owns the information the cameras provide.

At-large Commissioner Larsen Jay noted the lower-ranking KCSO representative present at the meeting and noted the "massive resignation of members" of the sheriff's legal department prior to the meeting. He asked who has access to the camera information, and the reply was 435 KCSO officers.

Jay was critical of Hugh Holt, KCSO Director of Purchasing, and said the

department "slid it in and didn't tell us," in reference to the contract with Flock.

The commissioners also questioned KCSO's creation of a Real Time Crime Center based on the Flock cameras.

First District Commissioner Damon Rawls, who said his district has the bulk of the cameras, asked about the status of crime solving in his district and was told there is no impact report.

Thompson questioned why most of the \$1.5 million state grant money went to the cameras and the proposed crime center.

He wondered if the grant money might have to be paid back and said, of the Flock camera system agreement, "We don't physically own anything."

Commissioner Terry Hill of District 6 said Flock cameras might be appropriate around schools or high-traffic areas and suggested the emergency ordinance might be delayed until the new sheriff and mayor take office. For the moment, the current sheriff and county mayor have an agreement not to deploy any new cameras.

Commissioners Jay and Shane Jackson of District 4 questioned what other agencies could access Flock camera information and were told the FBI, ICE,

Homeland Security and TVA, or other agencies with permissions approved by Flock.

District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox asked what vehicle features the Flock cameras record.

At-large Commissioner Kim Frazier asked the Flock executives again about the termination letter sent by Mayor Glenn. "For the record, you have not seen it?" They replied they have not.

The law director referred to the Flock and county agreement and added, "This is one of the screwiest contracts I've ever read." He added that the Flock company has apparently "chosen to ignore" the termination of the agreement.

He said Flock is currently operating in the county with no valid agreement.

District 2 Commissioner Courtney Durrett questioned if footage downloaded from Flock cameras by the KCSO could be held forever.

Buuck and the commissioners also discussed whether or not KCSO could sue the county over the cancellation of the Flock contract.

Commission Chair Gina Oster ended the meeting on a humorous note, "It's a good thing when Democrats and Republicans can agree on something." She was referring to the overwhelming disapproval of the Flock camera system.



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bring the voices of Tennessee to life through poetry and storytelling. Watch the sunset as musicians play, explore the different sets, and enjoy the garden!

On Thursday, Sept. 3, from 5-9 p.m., guests are

invited to discover pockets of music throughout the Garden as the chamber ensembles perform across the property. No tickets are required. Dinner is available from 5-7 p.m. for purchase and the music starts at 7 p.m.

Parking is free but limited; Attendees are encouraged to come early, park at 2650 Boyd's Bridge Pike, and take the free shuttle up to the event.

For more information, visit the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum website, www.knoxgarden.org/events/symphony.

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Publisher's Position

We will always love you too, Dolly



By **Steve Hunley,**
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The big news of last week was also the saddest, with the announcement of Dolly Parton's passing. Hers was a uniquely American story coming from a large and poor family in Sevier County. Dolly Parton's genius was her weaving together a tapestry of her own life throughout her songs. For millions of listeners, her song "Coat of Many Colors" was moving in many ways; it was an ode to a mother's love, it showed how to make the most of what you have (no matter how little), and sadly, showed a cruel reality when others teased and made fun of her for having to wear a makeshift coat. The song never failed to pull at the heartstrings of those who could recall the countless sacrifices made by loving parents for their children. It was a beautiful reminder of the gifts that only love can bestow, which are truly priceless.

Dolly could write and sing songs with the best of the best, her sheer talent carrying her to the heights of fame and fortune. Parton's "9 to 5" became a working person's anthem. Dolly never claimed to be perfect, and her song "I



The Hunley family is profoundly grateful to have shared good times and great music with Dolly and her family for years. Pictured above: Top - Legendary WIVK DJ Bobby Denton, Dolly and Con Hunley sharing music and smiles in the mid-80s; Bottom left - Our Dad, Wm. K. Hunley Sr. and Dolly backstage at Dollywood; Bottom right - Tim Hunley, Dolly and Kenny Hunley backstage at Dollywood where the Hunley Brothers performed with Dolly's brother, Randy Parton, for several seasons.

Will Always Love You" was written as a fond farewell to Porter Wagoner. Parton's songs could be soulful, wistful, cheerful, joyful and full of promise or love. I can't think of one that was bitter or harsh. Her duet with Kenny Rogers, "Islands in the Stream," crossed genres and is

well-known by old and young alike even today. In fact, all of Dolly Parton's hits have withstood the test of time. In today's world, praise is lavished on many lesser lights in gross overstatement. Dolly Parton was never understated with her buxom figure, wigs,

and trappings which were uniquely her own. Dolly was proud of her heritage and East Tennesseans, all Tennesseans, were proud of her. She was loved around the world - even Buckingham Palace paid tribute to Dolly Parton. Dolly Parton was a shrewd businesswoman

as well as a legendary entertainer. She created Dollywood, which continues to grow and expand every season. She was also a philanthropist who deeply believed that reading opened all the doors necessary for success in life and learning, creating the Imagination

Library. Millions of children received free books from Dolly's Imagination Library. Dolly gave of herself, personally, financially and in every other way when the Gatlinburg fires decimated everything in their path. Although she was larger than life, Dolly Parton was humble about giving back to her people, determined to make their lives better if she could. Dolly was deeply spiritual without being preachy or judgmental. Throughout her career, she never dodged or downplayed her own deep faith in God. Dolly Parton said she believed that all things were possible through God. She knew God had been very good to her, and in turn, she was very good to others. Dolly Parton was a true daughter of East Tennessee's mountains, valleys and streams. Her star shone brightly until the very end, and even death won't dim all that she brought to this world. Dolly Parton - her stories, her songs, her smile and bright spirit will live on for future generations. Because she was larger than life, it seemed to many of us that Dolly Parton was immortal. Sadly, that was not so. Even after eighty years, Dolly left us too soon. Hers is a loss that is wrenching and irreplaceable. It feels quite personal to hundreds of thousands of her loved ones, friends and fans. Heaven's choir is surely sounding even sweeter now. We refuse to say "goodbye." What we will say is, Dolly Parton, we will always love you, too.

Welcome Home, Veterans

Continued from page 1
tribute to those who have served. "I could think of no better way to end my tenure as mayor than cutting the ribbon for Hero's Hill," said Mayor Jacobs after the event. "Thank you to everyone who played a part in bringing this vision to life!" U.S. Congressman Tim Burchett honored his own father's bravery as a Marine fighting the Nazis in World War II and praised Mayor Jacobs for turning the challenge of homelessness into hope. Superintendent Jon Rysewyk, VA Associate Director of Operations Jonah Seymore, VA Commissioner Tommy Baker, TDEC ommissioner

David Salyers, HUD Director Walter Perry, Public Defender Eric Lutton, and KCDC Executive Director Ben Bentley each offered moving reflections on the transformative power of Hero's Hill. Guests shared camaraderie over lunch from Buddy's BBQ and ice cream from Cruze Farms, and listened to uplifting music performed by Watson and Meade. As the ceremony concluded, attendees toured the tiny homes and community center, many visibly moved by the hope and sense of belonging Hero's Hill brings to veterans. In an especially touching moment, Mayor Jacobs honored John Becker, expressing

deep gratitude for his unwavering service and heartfelt advocacy for veterans. Acknowledging how John Becker has shared the powerful stories and challenges faced by military families, Mayor Jacobs reminded everyone of the profound impact one person can make. In recognition, August 27th was declared John Becker Appreciation Day. Hero's Hill now proudly stands as a testament to what a caring community can achieve: twenty thoughtfully designed tiny homes, each one built to offer not just a shelter, but a true sense of safety, belonging and hope for the future.

Golf Course, zonings and monkeys at council

By Mike Steely
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A recent meeting of the Knoxville City Council saw first readings of several ordinances and an approval vote that could reduce the Municipal Golf Course to a 9-hole course and open up the remainder of the property to other changes. The council voted on a memorandum of understanding between the city, the county and the Knoxville-Knox County Sports Authority to have the authority explore partnerships

to modernize the course site. Several items are on the agenda for the council's second and final approval. Several of the ordinances you'd probably expect to appear on an agenda, but one got some surprising attention. The council will vote on final approval of the city's employee classification and compensation plans. A code change is before the body to change the department name of Information Systems to Innovation and **Continue on page 4**



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Discrimination Against Children Born Out of Wedlock

According to a 2018 study, it is estimated that forty percent of births in the United States occur outside of marriage. That is an increase from twenty-eight percent in 1990.

It seems that there is much less of a stigma surrounding having children while not being married. To the extent that there exists any



By Jedidiah McKeethan
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discrimination to those children who are born to an unmarried couple, the Tennessee legislators have passed a law in an attempt to prevent such and made it a criminal act to discriminate against individ-

uals based upon them being born to unmarried individuals.

Tennessee Code

Annotated section 36-2-316 states,

(a) No child born out of a wedlock shall be deprived of any civil benefit afforded to other citizens by law.

(b) Any person, including any employee or official of any governmental agency, who deprives any person of any civil benefit afforded to other citizens by law, by reason of the child being born out of wedlock, commits a Class C misdemeanor.

This law was passed in 1997. I am not sure how

much discrimination is occurring on this basis, but if it is occurring, it carries with it a criminal penalty.

Jedidiah McKeethan is an attorney practicing in Knoxville and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including family law, criminal, and personal injury. Visit attorney-knoxville.com for more information about this legal issue and other legal issues.

New commission may split on chair vote

By Mike Steely
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face a split vote.

Hill and Angela Russell have indicated they would like to serve as chair. Democrat Courtney Durrett has served as chair in the past.

When the new Knox County Commissioners meet for reorganization Tuesday, there may be a struggle for leadership. Following the 1 p.m. oath-taking, the four new members, along with the other seven commissioners, will select a new chair and vice chair.

The new commissioners are Republicans Barry Beeler, Justin Coffey and Garrett Holt, and Democrat Brandon Huckaby. The party alignment on the 11-member commission is now four Democrats and seven Republicans, and the chairmanship may be chosen by the Republicans, but there's a split between the conservative and traditional party members.

Terry Hill has sided with the Democrats and former Republican members Gina Oster, Kim Frazier and Larsen Jay. The new chairperson will undoubtedly

Once the new chair and vice chair are chosen, the reorganization meeting will choose which members will serve on standing committees including the Beer Board, Insolvency Board, Legislative Affairs, Telecoms, Agricultural, Audits, Fire and Technical Rescue, Metro Drug Coalition, Railroad Authority and Retirement-Pension, Community Action Committee, Personnel, Parks and Recreation, and Rules Committee. Once chosen, the committees will meet to choose a chairperson for each group.

The new full Knox County Commission meets for the first time on September 21 for the agenda review and on September 28 for the regular commission session.

Zoning appeal, KAT on city agenda

By Mike Steely
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Several zoning requests are on the city council agenda for Tuesday, ranging from simple zoning change requests to five resolutions involving Knoxville Area Transit.

Connolly Development Ventures LLC is asking the council to overturn a planning commission denial of a request to change 2704 Sevier Avenue from RN-2, single-family residential, to general commercial. The denial was based on a planning staff recommendation.

The second zoning request, outside the consent list, on Tuesday's agenda is a request for 103 Circle Lane to change from office to general commercial, which was denied at the planning level.

The council may thank Lincoln Memorial University for donations to public space improvements at the historic St. Mary's Campus. Legacy Parks may get a memorandum of understanding for preserving and

promoting natural areas, expanding parklands, creating trails, greenways and improving connectivity to rivers and streams, with a \$125,000 agreement.

Historic preservation funds of \$100,000 may be approved for property improvements at 1707 Loves Creek Road. Midwest Series of Lockton Companies, LLC, may be contracted to do a compensation study for \$239,000.

The African American Equity Restoration Task Force will see the appointments of Gwen McKenzie, Dave Miller and Craig Pickett.

Consent Items for Tuesday

Among the many consent items on the agenda is KAT asking for the extension of formula grant funding from the state. KAT is also asking for a \$38,661 grant from the state for bus facilities with an equal match from the city. The transit system is also asking for \$8,409 from the state for congestion mitigation and

air quality improvement, \$832,125 in state funds with an equal city match for mass transit and \$3.87 million with a \$3.27 million match for urban operating assistance.

Also on the consent list, which may be approved as a group with one vote, is a request for state emergency management funds to reimburse the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency for salaries and operating expenses for the new fiscal year. The council may approve an application for a \$3 million grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for home modifications for lower-income senior citizens.

The number of monkeys permitted at a residence in the city may be set at four, the same as the allowed number of dogs and cats.

Zoning requests on the consent list include changing 1325 Francis Road to single-family residential, 1900 Hoitt Avenue to industrial mixed-use, and 425 North Cedar Bluff Road to general commercial.

Golf course, zonings and monkeys at council

Cont. from page 3

Technology to better reflect the current duties and scope of their work. The name change is requested by that department.

A final vote on closing an unnamed street at 116 Heins Street is up for a second vote.

Probably the most unusual agenda item, up for its final reading, is a proposal

from the city's Operations Division to limit the number of monkeys per household where the animals are kept without a kennel permit. A North Knoxville homeowner, Janice Fuller, reportedly houses 30 or more monkeys of different types on her property. She has said that, if the ordinance passes, she may have to move outside the city.

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Tennessee Mountain Home Empty

By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

We all woke up this morning hoping that the news wasn't true, that we'd just had a bad dream. However, with the sunlight came the realization that Dolly Parton is gone. Just like it was hard to believe that she was 80, the fact that the world has lost a shining star became a reality.

For those of us here in East Tennessee, the news that our favorite person is gone stings almost too much to bear. We who are old enough remember her singing on the Cas Walker television program. Little did we know that the little girl would go on to become one of the greatest musicians in the world. Yes, her passing has stunned us as much as the death of Elvis. Our grief over her death equals the loss of such icons as John F. Kennedy or Martin Luther King.

Some might object to equating Dolly's loss to those listed above. In response, I cite the impact this East Tennessean has had on the world. Her music brought joy to millions in the U.S. and in all corners of the globe. She knew the importance of reading and made possible the distribution of more than 200,000,000 books to children. She donated one million dollars to Vanderbilt Hospital to develop a vaccine to save lives from Covid. Her legacy will carry the worldwide generosity that she shared. More importantly, individual stories will continue to be shared about how Dolly eased the pain of folks who lost homes or suffered from diseases.

A world without Dolly doesn't seem possible. How do those of us left behind go on? The world's grief is palpable, but the answer is quite simple. Each of us must pick up the work that Dolly Parton began. The key component is compassion. If nothing else, Dolly showed us that caring for others who are hurting is a basic act of humanity. She took to heart the charge that Jesus gave us. Along with that, she displayed a kindness that is in short supply in today's world.

Some will say that the outpouring of grief and praise for Dolly Parton is too much. They'll say the woman was a hillbilly and huckster. They will dismiss her as a shrewd businesswoman who played up the hillbilly act to make her theme park more successful. Yes, all of us who come from this area will play on the stereotypes that folks from other parts of the country place on us. "Ya'll come back" is often heard at many southern entertainment sites as smart business owners slide credit cards or ring up cash sales. Dolly Parton always wanted to offer people places that were fun and where individuals and families could create memories.

The great state of Tennessee has made tremendous contributions to the U.S. Three former presidents and two vice presidents. Davy Crockett is one of the most well-known pioneers in the country's history. Sam Houston was a governor of Tennessee before moving to Texas. He raised an army of Volunteers from Tennessee to fight against Mexico. Yes, that's how Tennessee became known as the "Volunteer State." Alvin York left his home in Tennessee and became a hero during World War I.

Not one of those great people overshadows the life and works of Dolly Parton. A proponent of education for all children, a world-famous entertainer whose songs have touched the lives of billions, and an anonymous donor to many programs and individuals. Dolly Parton became more than a famous Tennessean; she became an ambassador for goodness, kindness, and justice for all of us. The world will be a little dimmer without her shining star, but she leaves it to us to continue what she started. I'm not sure how willing our leaders are to take up this challenge.

Dolly Parton, thank you. Our hearts are broken right now, but they will forever be filled with love for you and your life.

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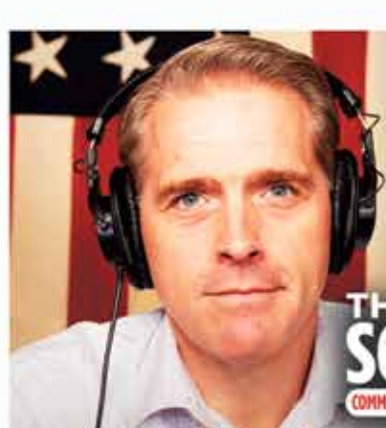
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The 1964 U.S. Senate Race in New York: Setting the Stage

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Hillary Clinton was not the first outsider to shop for a seat in the United States Senate from New York; that distinction belonged to Robert F. Kennedy, younger brother of President John F. Kennedy.

Robert Kennedy had been the assistant legal counsel to the committee chaired by Senator Joe McCarthy, the Wisconsin demagogue who had received funding from the Kennedy patriarch Joseph Kennedy. McCarthy had a significant following in Massachusetts, especially amongst Catholics, and Joe Kennedy had contributed generously to keep the Wisconsin senator from endorsing incumbent GOP Senator Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., who was being challenged by Congressman John F. Kennedy. Some attribute Kennedy's victory to McCarthy staying out of the campaign.

Bobby Kennedy was acknowledged by many to be the toughest of the Kennedy brothers for being long on grudge and short on gratitude. Kennedy became counsel to the Senate committee looking into labor racketeering, headed by the fearless Senator John McClellan of Arkansas. That was the beginning of Bobby Kennedy's blood feud with Teamsters president Jimmy Hoffa. Bobby worked frenetically for his brother Jack's nomination for president in 1960. After edging out a win by a whisker over Vice President Richard Nixon, Joe Kennedy, who had provided much of the financing for his son's presidential campaign, insisted the president-elect choose younger brother Bobby as his attorney general. Nepotism was hardly new in politics even then, yet it was perhaps the most breathtaking example, especially as Bobby Kennedy had never really practiced law before becoming attorney general of the United States.

Following the assassination of his brother, Bobby experienced a wave of sympathy from much of the country, who watched sadly as his lean and sorrowful figure trailed behind the caisson pulled by six white horses bearing the late president's coffin. There was a growing effort by Kennedy loyalists to place Bobby on the ticket with Lyndon Johnson in 1964. The problem was that LBJ and Bobby Kennedy loathed one another. Johnson, one of the most masterful politicians ever to occupy the White House, sidestepped a confrontation by announcing he would not choose anyone serving inside his Cabinet as his vice-presidential running mate. Kennedy later said he sent a note to other members of the

Cabinet stating, "I'm sorry I took so many nice fellows over the side with me."

Highly politically ambitious, Bobby Kennedy eyed a place to land outside of Lyndon Johnson's Cabinet. His eyes fell on Kenneth B. Keating's seat in the United States Senate.

Ken Keating looked as if he came right out of Hollywood's central casting office; white-haired, stocky, well-dressed and gregarious, Keating had been a highly popular congressman who had first been elected in the 1946 GOP wave. Keating, who had served in the armed forces during the Second World War, came home to run for the U.S. House of Representatives against Congressman George Rogers, who had unseated a Republican incumbent in 1944. Running inside New York's Fortieth Congressional District, Keating proved to be a superlative campaigner, profoundly enjoying meeting people, shaking hands, kissing babies and trying on any kind of a hat, be it a fireman's helmet or an American Indian war bonnet. Keating beat Rogers badly and won a rematch in 1948, which had been the closest election of his career. Deeply entrenched inside his congressional district, Keating grew in influence inside the House.

In 1958, Senator Irving Ives, who had been the choice of New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey, the GOP strongman inside the Empire State, was ailing and announced he would not seek a third term. Republicans in New York State pushed Congressman Ken Keating to run. Keating was not at all interested and seemed content to stay in the House of Representatives indefinitely. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Vice President Richard Nixon, former Governor Dewey and others all urged and pressured Keating to make the race. Finally, "kicking and screaming," Congressman Keating became the Republican nominee for the United States Senate.

Keating faced Frank Hogan, a storied and highly respected attorney who had served for years as the district attorney general of New York County. Hogan had begun his career in the district attorney's office under no less than Thomas E. Dewey, who had been something of a boy wonder as the crime-fighting DA of New York. Hogan had been one of four assistant district attorneys Dewey had indicated would make a fine successor as he left office, as he was running for governor in 1942. Frank Hogan was a Democrat but ran in 1941 after having



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

President Lyndon Johnson campaigns in New York with Robert F. Kennedy, 1964.

also been endorsed by the Republican Party and the American Labor Party.

Frank Hogan was in the headlines constantly, following the same crime-busting route Tom Dewey had blazed originally. Hogan prosecuted gangsters like Joe Adonis and crooked politicians, even those inside his own political party like Hulan Jack, the borough president of Manhattan and a stalwart member of Tammany Hall. Any number of Democrats coveted the nomination for Senator Ives' seat, including James A. Farley, the postmaster general and dispenser of federal patronage under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. A former chairman of the Democratic National Committee throughout the first eight years of Roosevelt's administration, the 74-year-old Farley announced his candidacy on June 3, 1958. Farley made a statement saying he would be "honored" to serve New York in the U.S. Senate during "this crucial period of the world's history."

Farley, once a political powerhouse, had habitually reached above himself and had broken with FDR over the president's decision to seek a third term in 1940, less out of conviction than because he yearned to become the first Catholic to occupy the White House. Farley initially thought of running for president before promoting the idea of his running for the vice-presidency on a ticket with Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Farley seemed not to realize that whatever power he held was due to his association with Roosevelt, and he faded from the political scene as he entered the world of business and served as the chairman of the board of the Coca-Cola Export Board in New York. The last office Farley had held was that of state chairman of New York's Democratic Party, an office he divested himself of in 1944. Despite friends in the news media who continually described the 70-year-old Farley as "vigorous and youthful," he certainly did not look it. Such superlatives and

descriptions of his energy did not stampede the delegates to New York's state Democratic convention.

Senator Ives, then 62, opined Farley was too old at 70 to enter the Senate as a freshman legislator. The governor of New York was Averell Harriman, the scion of one of America's wealthiest families. A veteran diplomat and foreign service officer, Harriman had been elected in 1954 when Tom Dewey refused to seek a fourth term. Governor Harriman was said to favor the senatorial candidacy of Thomas Finletter, a former secretary of the Air Force. The biggest roadblock to Farley or any other candidate for the Democratic nomination was Mayor Robert Wagner Jr. of New York City. The bearer of one of the most famous political names in New York history, Wagner's father, had been one of the most prolific legislators inside the Senate during Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Wagner himself had been the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate in 1956, but had lost to Jacob Javits, who was then the elected state attorney general.

Some Democrats hoped Wagner would run again, but he had been reelected as mayor in 1957, and after two campaigns in as many years, he was not anxious to engage in yet another. A recent poll had shown Wagner as the favorite among upstate party chairmen for the senatorial nomination.

There were those Republicans who hoped Nelson Rockefeller would run for the United States Senate. Like Harriman, Rockefeller was a scion of one of the country's wealthiest families and had held positions inside the State Department. Rockefeller was interested in running for office although he had no interest in seeking a seat in the Senate, having his eye firmly fixed upon the governorship.

Through the summer months, James A. Farley found he was far from being considered a consensus candidate for the Senate seat. Finletter was an open candidate and the candidacy of Frank Hogan

was showing over the horizon. Farley quickly issued a blast warning against the nomination of Hogan, whom he said had only experience in one county. Farley cautioned that by nominating Frank Hogan, Democrats risked bringing into the senatorial campaign the issues of crime and New York City's own problems. Farley also took a few shots at Governor Harriman, who he believed was trying to dictate to the convention.

"It will horrify the governor to learn that there are old and respected Democratic leaders who wish to endorse me openly, yet fear political reprisal from some of the ambitious and unauthorized people who, apparently, have somehow wormed their way into the fringes of his usually vigilant outer-guard," Farley complained loudly.

Farley was dismayed when Thomas E. Murray, whose only public office had been service as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, became the fourth declared candidate for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate. Farley called on the governor to help clarify some of the more "unusual candidacies" for the nomination. Farley knocked Murray's candidacy, noting the newest candidate's stands upon the issues of the day were completely unknown. Never having run for office before, Farley reasoned "therefore his ability as a campaigner must be unknown even to himself."

"Yet, a man of his experience could scarcely have ventured forth without assurance of powerful support, not yet revealed," Farley hinted darkly.

Farley's campaign and that of other candidates proved to be little more than shadow boxing as Frank Hogan swept all before him to easily win the nomination. Likewise, Kenneth Keating had no difficulty in winning the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate; indeed, the hardest part of the pre-nomination campaign had been to persuade Keating to run at all.

Once again, Ken Keating demonstrated

his remarkable ability to engage and connect with voters as he ran in the general election. While some complained Keating did not always follow the imaginary dictates of dignified behavior, the congressman was a joyful human being who liked people. The same Republican state convention that nominated Keating for the Senate also nominated Nelson A. Rockefeller as its candidate for governor.

In contrast to the patrician Harriman, Rockefeller proved to be a formidable mixer on the campaign trail, willing to sink his teeth into any ethnic food and flashing a toothy grin at every campaign stop. "Rocky" greeted voters with real relish while Harriman was stiff and more formal on the election trail. On Election Day, Rockefeller upset Harriman and Keating, yet again demonstrating his ability to draw the voters of Independents and some Democrats, and won the race to succeed Irving Ives.

Governor Rockefeller was reelected in 1962, as was Senator Jacob Javits. The stage was set for an epic contest in the senatorial race in 1964. Republicans in New York had given up any hope of carrying the Empire State for presidential nominee Barry Goldwater, who was not at all popular there, even though his running mate William Miller was from the state. Both Republicans and Democrats conceded Lyndon Johnson would easily carry New York.

Ken Keating, who had always had a knack for attracting publicity to himself, drew guffaws when he announced his reelection bid. Keating got laughter from his audience and momentarily caused reporters' collective hearts to skip a beat when he said he wished to announce he would not run for the U.S. Senate, after a theatrical pause, "from Massachusetts."

Congressman Samuel S. Stratton was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Senate but could not overcome the heavy spending by the Kennedy campaign and the support the former attorney general had garnered. Mayor Robert Wagner remained a powerful obstacle in the path of any Democrat for statewide office. Wagner was convinced no other Democrat could beat Senator Keating even with Barry Goldwater on the ballot, save for Robert F. Kennedy. That won Bobby Kennedy the Democratic nomination.

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By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist
Church Senior Pastor

you click, only to discover that the content rarely lives up to the headline. We call it clickbait.

The term grew out of the internet age, combining "click" with "bait." Much like bait on a fishing hook, the headline is designed to lure you in. The objective is not necessarily to inform you, help you, or even tell you the whole truth. The objective is to get your attention long enough to get your click. Because in today's internet market, those clicks and hits pay. It's called monetizing. Unfortunately, I fear we

are witnessing the rise of Click-Bait Christianity. Social media has provided Christians with an incredible platform to communicate truth. But it has also created a culture where controversy gets clicks,

outrage generates engagement, and arguments attract audiences. Before long, it becomes tempting to measure spiritual influence by views, shares, comments, and followers.

Remember in high school, everyone rushing to that one part of the hallway to see what was happening? Nothing builds an audience quite like a good fight. Let me be clear: Christians should know what they believe. Peter instructed believers to "be ready always to give an answer" for the hope within them (1

Peter 3:15). We should be able to articulate our faith, defend sound doctrine, identify erroneous teaching, and stand courageously for biblical truth. Still, Peter finishes that instruction: "with meekness and fear."

The Bible was never given to us merely to provide ammunition for arguments. There are Christians who seem perpetually angry and endlessly contentious. Every issue becomes a hill to die on, every disagreement becomes evidence of compromise, and every secondary doctrine becomes a test of fellowship. Was Noah's flood universal or regional? Who exactly were the Nephilim in Genesis 6? Were they fallen angels, descendants of Seth, powerful rulers or something else? Then there is the gap theory. Sincere Bible-believing Christians have debated questions like these for generations.

Study them, develop convictions about them, and have thoughtful conversations about them, but don't confuse winning those arguments with fulfilling the Great Commission.

We can become experts on the identity of the Nephilim while never telling our neighbor about Jesus. We can spend hours arguing about the symbolic dimensions of Noah's ark while never warning a single person about coming judgment. We can win a theological debate online while losing our Christian testimony in the process. Paul warned Timothy about those who became consumed with "questions and strifes of words" (1 Timothy

6:4). He later instructed him to avoid "foolish and unlearned questions, knowing that they do gender strifes" (2 Timothy 2:23). Some things are worth contending for. Jude tells us to "earnestly contend for the faith." But there is a difference between contending for the faith and being contentious over the faith.

The evidence that I know my Bible is not merely that I can explain difficult passages. It is that the Bible is changing the way I live. It should make me more loving, more gracious, more patient, more humble, more courageous, more holy, and more burdened for people who need Jesus. Knowledge that produces arrogance

has missed the point. Truth that never produces transformation has been mishandled. Our world does not need another generation of self-appointed scholars shouting at one another through screens; it needs Christians who know the truth, live the truth, speak the truth in love, and share the Gospel with people who desperately need it.

So study deeply. Think carefully. Defend faithfully. Stand firmly. But never become so interested in winning an argument that you forget we were commissioned to win people.

Christianity was never supposed to be clickbait; it is supposed to be Christlike.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 2

Rams dominate season opener at home, take sting out of Hornets

By Ken Lay

While most area high school football teams began their respective seasons in Week 1, Grace Christian Academy was idle, opting to take its bye week.

The Rams might've kicked off things a little late, but they wasted little time finding their offensive rhythm and defensive tenacity in a 56-7 victory over Carter Friday night before a packed house at the Jerry Disney Sports Complex.

Grace Christian (1-0) could only be stopped by one team on this sultry night in Northwest Knox County, and that was the Rams themselves,

Grace took the ball first and drove deep into Hornet territory before turning the ball over, failing to convert a fourth-down play.

But Carter couldn't keep the Rams out of the

end zone after the Grace defense smothered the Hornets; the Rams struck quickly and darted out to a 6-0 lead when quarterback Corbin Hobson connected with Braylen Mathis on a 10-yard touchdown to cap a 4-play, 40-yard drive. Rafael Silva added the extra point, extending the Rams' advantage to a 7-0 lead.

The inaugural scoring strike began a big night for Grace and a long night for the Hornets.

Offensively, Grace scored on its six of its first eight possessions over the first 24 minutes of the contest to open a 42-0 lead by halftime. Add that to the fact that the Hornets (0-2) never crossed midfield, and you had a dominant performance.

Rams' running back Terrion Thomas had a hand in his team's next four

Continue on page 4



PHOTO BY MARIAH CLAY.

Grace Christian Academy's Terrion Thomas eludes Carter defenders including Parker Allis (9) and John Piller (62) in the Rams' 56-7 win over the Hornets Friday night at the Jerry Disney Family Sports Complex. Thomas accounted for four touchdowns for Grace in its season opener.

Powell gets its defense rolling in 28-3 victory over Farragut

By Steve Williams

A different Powell team showed up Friday night. One that played defense and an all-round game. The result was a solid 28-3 victory over Farragut at Scarbro Stadium and Hayworth Field.

Matt Lowe, the Panthers' head coach, thought the key to the win was the defense.

"Defense had a long week," he said. "They gave up 44 points last week (in a win at Anderson County) and I think a lot of those kids took that personally. I know the coaching staff took it personally. So I think our defense

came out here to try and prove how good, athletic and physical they can be. Early on they gave up some first downs, but they never let them cross the goal line."

Senior Isaias Amador and juniors Landon McDaniel and Joshua Kay were the defensive leaders.

Amador, a linebacker, had 12 tackles and nine solo stops. McDaniel, a 6-7, 240-pound lineman, racked up 10 tackles, eight solos, one tackle for loss and one forced fumble. Kay, a 6-2, 200-pound outside linebacker, came away with nine tackles, seven solos, four

TFLs, two sacks and three QB pressures.

Offensively, senior running back Johonauan Moore carried the ball 10 times for 101 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore RB Keshawn Thomas gained 71 yards on 14 attempts and scored one TD.

Senior quarterback Jaylon Benjamin, who is almost as big as Deuce Rodgers, former Powell standout, completed 15 of 29 passes for 205 yards, one TD and one interception.

"I'm very proud of the entire group," added Coach Lowe. "And the offensive line continues

to lead the group, whether it's through the air or on the ground."

Senior Dezion Jackson caught a 47-yard touchdown pass from Benjamin in Powell's opening possession to take a 7-0 lead. Place-kicker Hunter Dryer, a sophomore, added his first of four PATs in the game.

The Admirals got on the scoreboard late in the first quarter when sophomore Caleb Bell kicked a 29-yard field goal to cut the deficit to 7-3.

Moore's 25-yard scamper to paydirt in the second quarter extended the Panthers' lead to 14-3. His 2-yard TD run in

the third period widened the gap to 21-3. Thomas' 1-yard plunge across the goal line with 10:47 on the fourth quarter clock was the last touchdown of the game.

"Benjamin does a good job," said Lowe. "He spreads the ball around and reads it well. And then when it's not there, he certainly has shown that he can start getting first downs running the ball as well."

Benjamin said he felt like there were some moments we let ourselves down in some situations. "But at the end of the day, we really came out here and did what we

needed to do to get the win."

Benjamin transferred from Clinton to Powell. "I just feel like there are better opportunities, a bit more exposure and I just feel like this is my home. This is where I'm supposed to be."

Farragut Head Coach Geoff Courtney said the difference in the game was "their athleticism and physical play."

The Admirals are now 0-2 and will play their home opener against Upperman (1-1) in Week 3.

Powell (2-0) will play at rival Halls (0-2) this Friday.



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SPOTLIGHT

The Brang family has one more shot



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

South-Doyle quarterback Benson Brang was wearing a knee brace and a smile as he prepared for the Cherokees' home opener against Karns last week.

By Steve Williams

South-Doyle's Benson Brang is more than a quarterback on the field. He's like a coach, and if he can stay away from the injury bug, he's sure to play in college someday – maybe even at the Ivy League level.

"We all call him Benny, affectionately," said his head coach, Zack Gibson, after last week's 41-19 victory at Austin-East. "He's so mature for his age. He's like having a coach out there and this is the fourth offensive system that he's played in and he's absorbing it like a sponge. He knows all the checks, all the motions, all the audibles. He's fantastic out there."

Brang also knew exactly the number of seconds that were left in the fourth quarter against A-E and waved to his team to come off the field, as 20 or so seconds were still ticking off.

"He's got a huge football IQ," added Gibson. "This will be his third year as a starter in high school. He's played a lot of football games and I'm excited to see what he does his senior year with his senior teammates."

Coach Gibson also noted Brang has had an injury in every one of his high school years. He sat out two games with an ankle injury his sophomore season. As a junior, he was sidelined

the last four games with a knee injury, which curtailed what might have been a trip to the playoffs.

"But he's worked really hard to come back and be healthy," said Gibson. "He's gotten stronger, bigger and faster. He's had a great off-season in the weight room, had a great spring, a great summer, a great fall camp. He's ready to roll. We're excited."

At last Wednesday's practice prior to the Karns game, Brang said being a coach is a long way down the road after his college days and "I just want to see where the Lord's path takes me."

Currently, Benson has one college offer from Mount Saint Joseph. Others on his list include University of Pikeville, Maryville College, UT-Martin and Rhodes College.

"I got a couple of invites from Ivy League schools too," he said. "U-Penn and Harvard also reached out."

Coach Gibson said Benson had a 4.3 to 4.4 GPA and All-Honor and All-AP awards in the classroom.

Physically, Brang is 6-2, 215. "Not bad at all," Gibson pointed out. "He does a great job taking care of his body."

Benson is the youngest of three boys in his family, which includes Mason and Nolan, who also were quarterbacks for the Cherokees.

The two older Brang brothers continued in college athletics after high school. Mason played football and graduated from Carson-Newman and is now an accountant at TVA. He and his wife now have a six-month-old baby.

Nolan is now a manager for the UT men's basketball team. He will be going into his third season in that role under head coach Rick Barnes.

"Nolan says Coach Barnes is a great Christian man," said Benson. "He believes strongly in the Lord and that his faith is one of the biggest things that he preaches to his kids."

As for the rest of the football season, Benson was asked what he was shooting for.

"I'm shooting for one at a time," he answered. "I don't care about personal stats. I care about my team winning. I care about my team being healthy and I just want to go week by week with this. We know that we can be very good and we know what we're capable of, and we know the coaches that we have are leading us in the right way. So we're going week by week. We're going to keep our heads down and work as hard as we can."

"We are in a very tough region. We definitely have some tough opponents."

"I don't care about personal stats. I care about my team winning. I care about my team being healthy and I just want to go week by week with this. We know that we can be very good and we know what we're capable of, and we know the coaches that we have are leading us in the right way. So we're going week by week. We're going to keep our heads down and work as hard as we can."

- Benson Brang



PHOTO BY JACK TATE

The Tennessee men's and women's basketball teams made their annual trip to Farragut High School for Hoops for Hope, an event where they hoop it up with athletes with special needs.

Hoops for Hope turns 20, has biggest turnout ever

By Ken Lay

Farragut High School athletic director Donald Dodgen had to answer an early Saturday wake-up call recently.

But Dodgen didn't mind because he knew what the day had in store. He's

shown up to open up the Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium on a late summer Saturday morning for the last two decades as the school has hosted Hoops for Hope since 2007.

The event gives children and young adults

with Down Syndrome the opportunity to play basketball with members of the University of Tennessee men's and women's basketball teams.

"This thing gets bigger every year," Dodgen said. "We had 59 kids this year and that's the most we've ever had."

"I look forward to this every year and it's an honor for us to host this. You can come in here and be in a bad mood and then you leave here feeling good. This is a feel-good day."

Hoops for Hope began as an Eagle Scout service project for Farragut graduate Trey Sexton, who

brought his own kids to the event for the first time. Hoops for Hope began as a one-time event.

But Sexton noted that both Tennessee and the Down Syndrome Awareness Group approached him about bringing Hoops for a second year in 2008.

The event has been a late-summer staple in West Knox County ever since. And it's a hit for UT players and coaches.

Lady Vol Rylie Theuerkauf's first Hoops for Hope experience was memorable and special.

"Meeting all the kids and coloring with them,

making them laugh, things like that, it's not even about basketball; it's just about talking to them and being with them," said Theuerkauf, who is an education major with aspirations of a teaching career. "This is special and I love this."

Theuerkauf, who enters the Lady Vols' program after transferring from Georgia, hails from New Jersey, where her father is a special education teacher. She's hoping to start a similar event when she returns to her home state.

"My dad is a special education teacher back home in (New) Jersey, and

I would like to do something like this back home."

Tennessee assistant men's basketball coach Bryan Lentz said that the event means more for the Vols than it does to the special needs athletes.

"This is a great event," said Lentz, who is in his ninth season at Tennessee on head coach Rick Barnes' staff. "This is special for the kids, but I think our guys get more of this than they do."

"For me personally, we're very blessed to do this and help players and we have a good group of guys."

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Decisive, tough, persistent, but always accessible



By Tom Mattingly

Moments of transition are always interesting, sometimes sad, many times poignant, often intriguing. There is a wide range of emotions as you watch one career pass in review and watch another one begin. The day in question was June 4, 2003, in the Neyland-Thompson Center. You might call it the changing of the guard. It was sometime after 9 a.m. that Doug Dickey, AD since 1985 and head football coach from 1964-69, told the staff, “I deeply appreciate everything you’ve done for the Athletics Department.” Calling it a “team effort,” Dickey discussed the Department’s past, present, and future. There were no surprises as he discussed facilities, revenue streams, and cash flow. He also discussed his thoughts about the people he had come to know and respect, even admire, over the years. He talked about great athletes and great moments, the excitement his two Tennessee careers engendered, and the dynamics that made the University of Tennessee such a great

place. The bottom line,” he said, “is that it’s all about the teams and the student-athletes and how we manage the scene.” His last words were vintage Doug Dickey: “I have a comfort zone about what you’ve helped accomplish.” With that, he introduced Mike Hamilton as his successor and quietly left the room. No one applauded, but they didn’t have to. Dickey wouldn’t have liked that. His final meeting with his coaches a day or two earlier had been marked by a brief show of emotion that was reminiscent of his remarks about Jim McDonald in 1994 when McDonald was named the East Tennessee Chapter’s Distinguished American Award winner. It could have been in 2001 when Dickey paid tribute to his mentor Bob Woodruff when Bob received the Robert R. Neyland Award. A flashy show of emotion was not his style, and there are those who wish more people could see the real person. I’ll remember more than one amazing side to Doug Dickey. There was the ramrod straight young coach who brought the Vol football program back to national prominence in

the mid-1960s. Vol fans believed their favorite team would win every time out. On the night of Nov. 18, 1967, near the site of Tom Black Track, Vol fans came from far and wide to pay tribute after a 20-7 triumph over Ole Miss in Memphis. There was a bonfire and a profound sense of excitement. The Vols were close to claiming an SEC title and earned it two weeks later with wins over Kentucky and Vanderbilt. On his arrival in Knoxville in December 1963, Dickey had predicted big things happening in the Vol football program in his fourth year. This was the fourth year. There were Sunday afternoons at 1 p.m. in Knoxville and at various other times statewide, with Dickey and John Ward narrating highlights of the previous day’s game. It was a “can’t miss” event and anxiously awaited each week. Then there was Doug Dickey, the AD with the big shoulders, who led the Vol program in the mid-1980s and beyond. The adjectives come freely: decisive, tough, and persistent, but always accessible. There were two major crises in Dickey’s tenure as head coach that happened between October 1965 and March 1966. Three coaches were killed



Doug Dickey was elected to the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame in 2003.

in a car-train wreck in West Knox County the Monday morning after the Alabama game. In March, two players were killed in Benton (Polk County) after a truck sideswiped their car. Dickey stepped to the forefront in both instances and guided the football program through the Valley of the Shadow, earning respect from thoughtful observers who watched it all transpire. In 2005, Dickey found out that one of his employees was on the street in the rain outside his home after what appeared to be a domestic dispute. It was not a good scene. His voice echoed his

disappointment with the whole situation. Fortunately, several of us had heard what had happened and were in the process of taking action. It was clear that he appreciated that. Doug Dickey might have walked out of the room quietly that June morning, but his accomplishments are written in large letters across the landscape of the University of Tennessee and the state of Tennessee as a whole. The changing of the guard has a sense of finality to it, but it’s a part of the natural ebb and flow of life as we know it.

ITEM: The University of Tennessee Press has announced that Doug Dickey’s memoir, “Just Keep Jumping,” is in the final proof stage and is slated for publication this November. The book chronicles Dickey’s life and times as a legendary football coach, athletic director, and College Football Hall of Fame member. It is a tribute to perseverance and leadership, as well as to the enduring spirit of a true trailblazer. “When Doug Dickey spoke, people listened,” said Peyton Manning. “I know I did.”

Tennessee season preview

By Mark Nagi

As you well know, the 2026 college football season is almost here. Technically, it has already arrived with “Week Zero” contests played last weekend, but the real deal starts on Saturday. For the Tennessee Volunteers, only 12 games are guaranteed. Nine SEC contests and three out-of-conference games. I know how busy everyone is, so I’ve taken the liberty of predicting each game, for entertainment purposes only. Note: Some of these are tongue-in-cheek. For the love of all that is right in this world, do not wager Braxton’s 529 plans on these prognostications. The season starts with an easy 52-7 win over Furman. A sold-out crowd at Neyland Stadium watched QB Faizon Brandon look good while contributing five total TDs. Vols fans begin a “Brandon for Heisman” campaign. A week later, Tennessee edges Georgia Tech 24-21 in Atlanta. Tennessee LB Arion Carter makes a game-saving tackle. After the

game, he wears an NCAA headband during interviews. In Week three, Tennessee hosts Kennesaw State. In an odd decision by the University, only fans who knew that Kennesaw State is a school located in Georgia are allowed to attend. An estimated 45,000 fans (including 622 students) watch the Vols beat the (looks up team nickname) Owls 63-10. Brandon throws five TD passes. One of the games of the year in college football takes place in Week 4, as Texas faces Tennessee. This is the first time the Vols have played the Longhorns since the 1969 Cotton Bowl. Texas QB Arch Manning, nephew of Tennessee legend Peyton Manning, throws three TD passes and runs for another in a 42-31 victory. Peyton is seen after the game giving the “hook ‘em” sign in celebration. Tennessee fans burn his jersey in the open section of the soon-to-be-demolished G-10 parking garage. Tennessee bounces back with

a 24-17 win over Auburn the following week. Tigers head coach Alex Golesh can’t beat his old employer in his first attempt. Golesh served as the Vols’ offensive coordinator under Josh Heupel in 2021-2022. Auburn boosters immediately fire him and offer Bill Belichick \$300 million to coach the Tigers, but Belichick can’t get out of a cheer-leading competition commitment he gave his girlfriend. Tennessee’s second road game of the season is on deck with a trip to Fayetteville to face Arkansas. This is a scheduling quirk, as the Vols played at Arkansas only two years prior, and faced the Razorbacks in 2025. The Vols win an ugly game 14-7, and Brandon runs for both TDs. The Vols are 5-1 heading into the “Third Saturday in October.” The last two times Alabama came to Neyland Stadium, goalposts were torn down. This time there would be no Vols fans rushing the field, as the Tide win 31-17. Even with the win, Alabama

head coach Kalen DeBoer is told by Alabama fans that they wish he was Nick Saban, prompting DeBoer to resign and take an offshore drilling job in the South China Sea, where he hopes that there will be no Alabama fans. Tennessee then heads to South Carolina, and once again that matchup in Columbia is a memorable one. Freshman WR TK Keys makes a key block on one TD and throws for another on a trick play as the Vols win 35-20. South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer is fired after the game and also takes a job with an offshore drilling company based in the South China Sea. After a bye week, the Vols head to the coldest place on the planet, a night game in Lexington in November. Tennessee wins an ugly game over Kentucky 31-27, a game in which UK led three times. There’s really nothing new here. This result is always what happens. The 6-2 Vols head to College Station, playoff hopes still intact. They leave with those hopes

squashed at Kyle Field as Texas A&M wins 12-9. Now 6-3, Lane Kiffin and the LSU Tigers come to Neyland Stadium. Security is tight as Lane Kiffin walks onto the field to a chorus of boos and vitriol not seen since William Wallace is tried in England on charges of treason. The Tigers, supported by a roster filled with former NFL players, Olympic track stars and monsters from “Space Jam,” beat Tennessee 35-28. After the game, Kiffin defends his roster makeup. “If the NCAA doesn’t have any disciplinary power, why would we follow any rules?” ESPN College GameDay hosts carry Kiffin off the field after the game, as 56,000 yellow golf balls are thrown at him. Tennessee finishes the season with a 23-14 win over Vanderbilt. For the second straight year, the Vols are 8-4 and accept a Music City Bowl invite.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Top girls soccer teams to compete at Bearden Invitational

By Ken Lay

Labor Day weekend is around the corner and once again, some of the best high school soccer teams in the Volunteer State will convene in West Knoxville for the Bearden Invitational. Games will be played Thursday-Saturday at Turner-Allender Field, home of the defending Class 3A state champion Lady Bulldogs’ soccer team, and at Bill Young Field, home of the Bearden football team.

The host Lady Bulldogs will be joined by Webb School of Knoxville (a two-time Division II-AA runner-up), Johnson City-Science Hill (a top side from District 1-3A), Maryville, Gallatin, Oak Ridge, Greeneville, Alcoa, Heritage, Christian Academy of Knoxville, Farragut, Station Camp, Liberty Creek and Hardin Valley. In addition to the top Tennessee teams in the field, two top teams from Ohio will

also be in Knoxville as Badin and Walsh Jesuit will make a long trip south. A handful of junior varsity squads will also have matches in the event, which is one of the top tournaments of the season in Tennessee. Bearden, Webb, Science Hill, Walsh Jesuit, Maryville, Farragut, Badin and Hardin Valley will have their respective JV squads playing over the holiday weekend.

2026 BEARDEN INVITATIONAL		
THURSDAY, September 3	LOCATION	TIME
Webb JV VS Science Hill JV	TURF	6:00 PM
FRIDAY, September 4		
Maryville VS Gallatin	GRASS	5:00 PM
Webb VS Central	TURF	5:00 PM
Bearden VS Science Hill	GRASS	7:00 PM
Oak Ridge VS Greeneville	TURF	7:00 PM
SATURDAY, September 5		
Gallatin VS Alcoa	GRASS	10:00 AM
Walsh Jesuit JV VS Farragut JV	TURF	10:00 AM
Walsh Jesuit (OH) VS Webb	GRASS	12:00 PM
Heritage VS CAK	TURF	12:00 PM
Station Camp VS Farragut	GRASS	2:00 PM
Liberty Creek VS Hardin Valley	TURF	2:00 PM
Science Hill JV VS Maryville JV	TURF	4:00 PM
CAK VS Maryville	GRASS	6:00 PM
Bearden JV VS Badin JV	TURF	6:00 PM
Bearden VS Badin (OH)	GRASS	8:00 PM
SUNDAY, September 6		
Farragut VS Science Hill	TURF	9:00 AM
Bearden JV VS Walsh Jesuit JV	GRASS	9:00 AM
Hardin Valley VS Oak Ridge	TURF	11:00 AM
Station Camp VS Walsh Jesuit (OH)	GRASS	11:00 AM
Badin (OH) VS Liberty Creek	TURF	1:00 PM
Greeneville VS Heritage	GRASS	1:00 PM
Badin JV VS Hardin Valley JV	TURF	3:00 PM
Alcoa VS Central	GRASS	3:00 PM
* Team listed first will be the Home Team and wear dark uniforms*		

A GLANCE BACK
AND A LOOK AHEAD

Nothing to lose and everything to gain

By Steve Williams

Brad Turner is looking forward to playing Alcoa Friday night. Not all high school football coaches would feel that way.

The Tornadoes have won 24 state football championships and 11 in a row. Gibbs has made 25 appearances in the TSSAA football playoffs and four in a row.

No wonder Turner is not worrying. He has everything to gain and nothing to lose, except one game.

“The way I look at it, these guys have the opportunity to go out and play a really good football team and against a bunch of players that are probably going to be playing Division 1 or pro football one day,” said Turner.

“I remember when I was coaching here at Gibbs and the defensive coordinator. Tee Higgins was playing at Oak Ridge. I mean we really played well that day and it was fun to go against guys like that, so I think it’s the thing you go out, you play hard, you play Gibbs football.

“You don’t go out and worry about what they do because they are good at what they do. You just try to play your game and see what happens.

“Obviously it will be a fun atmosphere. I’ve never played over at Alcoa, so we’ll go over there and see what that’s all about.”

Week 2’s Big Wins

Gibbs 34, Halls 27
CAK 49, Heritage 0
Maryville 48, West 13

Week 2’s Surprises

A-E 34, Wm. Blount 18
Asheville 48, Webb 21

Week 3’s Toss-Ups

Karns at Campbell Co.
Upperman at Farragut
CCS at TKA
Powell at Halls
Carter at Union Co.

2026 Prep Football WEEK THREE

Games kick off at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, September 3

Cocke Co. at Seymour

Friday, September 4

Gibbs at Alcoa
Notre Dame at CAK
Karns at Campbell Co.
Upperman at Farragut
Bradley Central at HVA
Concord Christian at TKA
Anderson Co. at Fulton
Chatt Christian at Grace
Powell at Halls
Silverdale at Webb
Central at West
Bearden at Maryville
Heritage at South-Doyle
Carter at Union Co
Catholic at Lipscomb

Week Two Scores

TKA 44, Tri-Cities Xtian 14
Catholic 42, Anderson Co. 21
Alcoa 56, Bearden 13
Gibbs 34, Halls 27
CAK 49, Heritage 0
Central 42, Fulton 0
Grace 56, Carter 7
Maryville 48, West 13
Seymour 42, Pigeon Forge 8
Powell 28, Farragut 3
South-Doyle 34, Karns 0
A-E 34, William Blount 18
Asheville 48, Webb 21
HVA 35, Morristown East 14
CCS 54, Mt. Juliet Christian 7

MISS HIGH SCHOOL KICK-OFF for 2026: Bella Sampieri, junior, Grace Christian Academy. Activities: Varsity Cheer, Teen Board, Beta Club, Award Winning Public Speaker, Theater Productions and Entrepreneur.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 2



PHOTO BY MARIAH CLAY.

Catholic’s David Thomas hauls in a touchdown catch for the Irish in their 42-21 victory over Anderson County Thursday night at Blaine Stadium. Thomas, a newcomer for Catholic, had two receptions for 37 yards against the Mavericks.

Irish start fast, run past Anderson County at home

By Ken Lay

A fast start propelled the Catholic High School football team into the win column for the second consecutive week,

The Irish scored a pair of touchdowns in the first quarter on their way to capturing a 42-21 victory over Anderson County Thursday night at Blaine Stadium.

The Irish (2-0) scored the game’s first touchdown when Kruise Buntyn Jr. had a 1-yard carry with 8 minutes, 37 seconds remaining in the opening frame, culminating an 80-yard drive. On its next possession, Catholic had a quick strike as senior quarterback Mack Bartholomew connected with Braylen Gibbs from 73 yards out, making the score 14-0 before the Mavericks

trimmed the Irish’s advantage in half on J.D. Gillum’s 57-yard scoring strike to Lane LaRue.

Catholic took control of the contest in the second stanza as it scored 21 points. Meanwhile, the Irish’s defense held the Mavericks at bay and off of the scoreboard.

Bartholomew, who went 10-for-14 through the air with 150 yards and three touchdowns, found David Thomas from 12-yards out, making the score, 21-7.

Thomas, a late arrival to Catholic has wasted little time making an impact on the Irish’s program. He’s been with the team for approximately a month. In two games, he has nine receptions for 252 yards and three touchdowns.

In Catholic’s season

opener, a 19-14 comeback win over Riverdale on Saturday, Aug. 22, at Blaine Stadium, Thomas pulled in seven catches for 215 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winning score late in the fourth quarter.

Irish coach Philip Shadowens has only had Thomas for a short time but he’s already seen the difference that the transfer from Stillwater High School (Oklahoma) can make.

“David is just consistent,” Shadowens said. “David is going to be David every play.

“He’s going to run good routes, be fast, and make plays for you.”

Bartholomew, who finished the contest as Catholic’s leading rusher as he amassed 112 on just

five carries, scored on a 49-yard touchdown scamper, making the score 28-7. The Irish’s defense scored a defensive touchdown as Markise Witt intercepted a pass from Gillum and returned it 36 yards for a touchdown giving the Irish the 35-7 advantage they enjoyed at the half.

Anderson County (0-2) pulled to within 35-14 on a touchdown run by LaRue.

Catholic scored its final touchdown when Bartholomew threw an 8-yard scoring strike to tight end Brayden Howard.

Gillum pulled the Mavericks to within 42-21 when he threw a touchdown to Zach Happney late in the game.

Rams dominate season opener at home, take sting out of Hornets

Cont. from page 1

scores. His 2-yard run gave made the score 14-0. He then broke a 52-yard punt return to give the Rams the 21-0 advantage they enjoyed at the end of the opening frame.

He added a 28-yard touchdown and threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Hobson to make the score 35-0. Mathis caught another scoring pass with eight seconds remaining before halftime

Grace could’ve scored two more touchdowns before the break, but one drive ended when Hobson lofted an interception. Another was thwarted by a fumble deep in Carter territory.

By the end of the night, Thomas finished with 15 yards and a TD on four carries. He also returned a punt for a score. He hauled in two receptions (including a touchdown) for 64 yards and added the touchdown pass.

Hobson, Grace’s senior quarterback, was 11-of-14 through the air for 237 yards and four touchdowns.

He had an interception and caught a touchdown pass.

Defensively, the Rams sacked Carter quarterback Braeson Gourley 10 times. Jackson Coffey recorded 2.5 sacks, while Will Pasley had two and Elijah Lakin totaled seven tackles, including 1.5 tackles for loss. He finished with 0.5 sacks.

Carter scored on its first possession of the third quarter when Gourley threw a 6-yard pass to DaVonte Scruggs with a running clock.

Grace scored in the third frame on a touchdown pass from Hobson to Kaden Webber before Cooper Brayman closed the scoring with a short run.

Grace Christian third-year head coach Justin Price liked what he saw in his team in its first game.

“Any time you play that first game, you try to find your identity and establish the tone for who you want to be for the rest of the season,” Price said. “We have to clean some things up and keep our team chemistry where it is.”

The AmeriCorps Seniors Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Proudly Presents

9/11 DAY OF SERVICE

September 11th, 2001 was a day that changed America forever. 25 years later, we invite you to join us for a day of service and remembrance to the lives lost and heroes born on that fateful day.



Friday, September 11, 2026



9:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.



Ross Building
2247 Western Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37921

SPEAKERS

Jeremy Bond
Airman
First Class (RET)

Kim Hansard
Radio Personality and Co-Host
of the Marc & Kim Show

Greg Roberts
Tennessee
Highway Patrol (RET)



- Guest Speakers
- Exhibitors
- Light Refreshments



Don't forget your reusable water bottle for KUB H2O TO GO!



LEARN MORE:
www.knoxseniors.org/events

Questions? Call 865-524-2786 or Email rsvpcoord@knoxseniors.org

Produced and published at taxpayer expense.

First cross country night race set for Sept. 26



By Steve Williams

Local high school cross country runners are in for a treat this fall. “On Sept. 26 we are going to change the East Tennessee Classic into a night race on the Victor Ashe Park course, which will be a state course next year,” said Don Madgett, South-Doyle coach and director of the Metro Knox CC program. “It now has a facelift with a \$38,000 upgrade on the surface with crushed gravel that was paid for by Visit Knoxville. We also will have 45 light towers on the course and start after sunset. “It will be the first night race in

Knoxville.” The Scots Opener at Maryville College was this season's initial meet.

Halls boys and Farragut girls prevail in golf

Two of the best programs on the prep golf scene notched wins last week at the Beaver Brook Country Club course.

Davis Reitz shot a 35 in the nine hole contest to lead the Red Devils’ 149 to 151 win over Farragut. Teammate Ty Abbott was one stroke back.

Bryce Coulter led the Admirals with a 35. Britten Luttrell of Oak Ridge also carded a 35 as the Wildcats tallied 154 in the tight team battle.

In girls’ team action, Farragut finished with a big margin with its

score of 80. Oak Ridge finished with a score of 104 and Halls came in with a 108.

Harper Holmes (35) and Taylor Albright (45) led the Lady Ads to the team title.

Smokies’ last homestand starts Tuesday

The Knoxville Smokies finished the month of August with road trips to Pensacola and Biloxi and will begin their final homestand Tuesday against the Chattanooga Lookouts.

Knoxville's final six-game series of the second half will be played at Birmingham, Sept. 8 through Sept. 13.

As of last Friday, Knoxville was in second place in the Southern League North Division.

The Smokies, having won the

first half, already have qualified for the SL playoffs.

Knoxville will play Game 1 in the playoffs on Sept. 15.

Rocket City, going into Friday's action, had a 1.5 game lead in the second half.

TSSAA recognizes its Coaches of the Year

Three high school coaches in the Knoxville area are among the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association’s Coaches of the Year for 2025-26.

They are John Williams of Hardin Valley Academy for boys golf; Isaac Brooks of Grace Christian Academy for boys soccer, and Chandler Klinck of West High School for boys lacrosse.

Reed honored by TSSAA after 40 years of service

After hearing an update on the construction of the new TSSAA office building, the Board of Control voted unanimously to name the board room in the new building the Mike Reed Board Room, in honor of former TSSAA Board of Control member and president, Mike Reed, who recently retired, ending his 40 years of dedicated service to the TSSAA.

In other news, the Board of Control voted to approve the 2026-27 school year budget, finalized the Division II Financial Aid Report for the prior school year, and approved minutes from the June 9-10 session.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: ESTATE OF CATHERINE SAMPLE, along with ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, AND ASSIGNS THEREOF, and SECRETARY OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

IN RE: CLEAR RECON, LLC, Petitioner

vs.
ESTATE OF CATHERINE SAMPLE, along with ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, AND ASSIGNS THEREOF, and SECRETARY OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT, Respondents

DOCKET NO. 213265 Part III

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant(s), ESTATE OF CATHERINE SAMPLE, along with ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, AND ASSIGNS THEREOF, and SECRETARY OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon ESTATE OF CATHERINE SAMPLE, along with ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, AND ASSIGNS THEREOF, and SECRETARY OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT, it is ordered that said defendant(s), ESTATE OF CATHERINE SAMPLE, along with ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, AND ASSIGNS THEREOF, and SECRETARY OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee, on or before thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgement by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This the 7th day of AUGUST, 2026.

Jessica Haun
Interim Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NELLIE SUE RAMSEY, DECEASED, THEIR UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEWISEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT; TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST BY, THROUGH OR UNDER NELLIE SUE RAMSEY, DECEASED, Respondent(s)

IN RE: TERESA KAY RAMSEY, Petitioner
v.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NELLIE SUE RAMSEY, DECEASED, THEIR UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEWISEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT; TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST BY, THROUGH OR UNDER NELLIE SUE RAMSEY, DECEASED, Respondent(s)

DOCKET NO. 213635-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

It appearing from the pleadings and affidavits filed in this cause that the identities and residences of the Respondents cannot be ascertained after diligent inquiry, and that service by publication has been authorized by the Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee; You, the Respondents, are hereby notified that Teresa Kay Ramsey has filed a Verified Petition to Quiet Title, Remove Cloud Upon Title, for Declaratory Judgment, Divestiture of Interest, and Other Equitable Relief concerning the following real property located in Knox County, Tennessee:

6121 McGinnis Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37938
Knox County Tax Parcel No. 022 026

The Petition seeks a declaration that Petitioner is the sole owner of the Property, that all claims of the Respondents be forever divested, and that title be quieted in Petitioner.

You, the Respondents, are required to file an Answer or other responsive pleading with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court for Knox County, Tennessee, and to serve a copy upon Petitioner's attorney, Dustin R. Landry, Landry & Azevedo, 859 Ebenezer Road Knoxville, Tennessee 37923, within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this Notice. If you fail to do so, judgment may be entered against you by default and the relief requested in the Petition may be granted.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This the 20th day of AUGUST, 2026.

Jessica Haun
Interim Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JORDAN SETH HANKAL

IN RE: ADELA AZUCENA GONZALEZ-GARCIA, Plaintiff
-vs-
JORDAN SETH HANKAL, Defendant

Docket # 164956

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant, JORDAN SETH HANKAL, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JORDAN SETH HANKAL. IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by ADELA AZUCENA GONZALEZ-GARCIA, Plaintiff herein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with DANIEL KIDD, Plaintiff's Attorney whose address is 1308 WILSON RD., SUITE 102, KNOXVILLE, TN 37912, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This the 18th day of AUGUST, 2026.

Mike Hammond
Clerk

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: REGINA RUTH BURCHELL

IN RE: JOHNATHAN EUGENE BURCHELL, Petitioner
VS.
REGINA RUTH BURCHELL and JOHNATHAN BURCHELL, Respondents

CASE NO. 3917

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Respondent, REGINA RUTH BURCHELL, whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon REGINA RUTH BURCHELL, regarding the conservatorship action pending in this Court:

IT IS HEREBY COMMANDED that said Respondent, REGINA RUTH BURCHELL, is to file an ANSWER to the Petition with Petitioner's Attorney, Darrick Edmondson, whose address is P. O. BOX 789, Maynardville, TN 37807, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice as required by law; and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, this case shall be set for hearing without Respondent's presence.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 20th day of AUGUST, 2026.

Barbara Williams
Union County Circuit Court Clerk

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: WILLIAM A. HANEY

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM GENE HANEY, Deceased

BY: THERESA STARR OLDHAM, Petitioner
VS.
WILLIAM A. HANEY, Respondent

CASE NO. 2299

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT MAYNARDVILLE

In this cause, it appearing from the Order of Publication, that the residence of Respondent WILLIAM A. HANEY is unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, it was ordered that publication be made to notify Respondent, WILLIAM A. HANEY to appear and file an ANSWER with this Court and to send a copy to Petitioner's Attorney, Darrick Edmondson, whose address is P. O. BOX 789, Maynardville, TN 37807, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice, exclusive of the last day of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a judgment by default may be entered against the said Respondent, WILLIAM A. HANEY.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 25 day of AUGUST, 2026.

Sandra Edmondson
Union County Clerk and Master

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: SUMMER RING

IN RE: CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18, L. R., DOB 04/03/2024

BY: JOSHUA PERRY, Petitioner/Father
VS.
SUMMER RING, Respondent/Mother

CASE NO. 47JC7-2026-PPP-18

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Respondent, SUMMER RING, whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon SUMMER RING, regarding the custody case pending in this Court;

IT IS HEREBY COMMANDED that said Respondent, SUMMER RING is to file an ANSWER to this Petition with Petitioner's Attorney, Darrick Edmondson, whose address is P. O. BOX 789, Maynardville, TN 37807, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice as required by law; and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 31 day of JULY, 2026.

Charles D. Susano, III
Knox County Juvenile Court Clerk

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: SUMMER RING

IN RE: CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18, L. R., DOB 04/03/2024

BY: JOSHUA PERRY, Petitioner/Father
VS.
SUMMER RING, Respondent/Mother

CASE NO. K-0768

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION
In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Respondent, SUMMER RING, whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon SUMMER RING, regarding the child support case pending in this Court;

IT IS HEREBY COMMANDED that said Respondent, SUMMER RING is to file an ANSWER to this Petition with Petitioner's Attorney, Darrick Edmondson, whose address is P. O. BOX 789, Maynardville, TN 37807, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice as required by law; and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 31 day of JULY, 2026.

Charles D. Susano, III
Knox County Juvenile Court Clerk

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: SKYLAR DANIELLE WHEELER, Respondent/Mother, and JOSEPH ELDRIDGE, Respondent, Father

IN RE: CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18, J. N. E., DOB 01/03/2026

BY: JENNIFER LEE SCOTT, and husband ROBIN BROAD, Petitioners/Grandparents
VS.
SKYLAR DANIELLE WHEELER, Respondent/Mother, and JOSEPH ELDRIDGE, Respondent, Father

CASE NO. 87JC1-2026-DN-11

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF UNION COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Respondents SKYLAR DANIELLE WHEELER, Respondent/Mother, and JOSEPH ELDRIDGE, Respondent, Father, whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon SKYLAR DANIELLE WHEELER, Respondent/Mother, and JOSEPH ELDRIDGE, Respondent, Father, regarding the Petition for Emergency Custody filed in this matter;

IT IS HEREBY COMMANDED that said Respondents, SKYLAR DANIELLE WHEELER, Respondent/Mother, and JOSEPH ELDRIDGE, Respondent, Father are to file an ANSWER to the Petition for Emergency Custody with Petitioners' Attorney, Darrick Edmondson, whose address is P. O. BOX 789, Maynardville, TN 37807, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice as required by law; and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, the Petition will be taken as admitted by the Respondents and the case set for hearing without the Respondents' presence.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 14th day of AUGUST, 2026.

Barbara Williams
Union County Juvenile Court Clerk

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: TAMMY MARIE ZIRKLE

IN RE: CHARLES R. ZIRKLE, Plaintiff
VS.
TAMMY MARIE ZIRKLE, Defendant

CASE NO. 4040

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT MAYNARDVILLE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Defendant, TAMMY MARIE ZIRKLE, whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon TAMMY MARIE ZIRKLE, regarding the Complaint for Divorce filed in this matter;

IT IS HEREBY COMMANDED that said Defendant, TAMMY MARIE ZIRKLE, is to file an ANSWER to the Complaint for Divorce with Plaintiff's Attorney, Darrick Edmondson, whose address is P. O. BOX 789, Maynardville, TN 37807, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice as required by law; and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, the Complaint will be taken as admitted by the Defendant and the case set for hearing without the Defendant's presence.

This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 24 day of AUGUST, 2026.

Barbara Williams
Union County Circuit Court Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOAN M. ANDERSON
DOCKET NUMBER 92930-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of August, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOAN M. ANDERSON, who died March 23, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

described in (1)(A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.
This the 10th day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOAN M. ANDERSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LISA J. ROSS
1206 AMBER GLADES LN.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

DUSTIN LANDRY, ATTORNEY
859 EBENEZER RD.
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF KENNETH BOLTON
DOCKET NUMBER 92937-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of August, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of KENNETH BOLTON, who died May 22, 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 14 day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF KENNETH BOLTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JILL BOLTON
P. O. BOX 1664
CORRALES, NM 87048

ADAM B. McDONALD, ATTORNEY
MICHAEL R. CROWDER, ATTORNEY
4th FLOOR, BANK OF AMERICA BLDG.
P. O. BOX 442
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0442

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE ANN BRANCH
DOCKET NUMBER 92670-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of August, 2026, letters administration in respect of the Estate of CHARLOTTE ANN BRANCH, who died March 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 14 day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE ANN BRANCH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD GREGORY BRANCH, SR., ADMINISTRATOR
450 PRESTWICK RIDGE WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37914

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ELSIE T. DODSON
DOCKET NUMBER 92945-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 14 day of August, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of ELSIE T. DODSON, who died June 26, 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 14 day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF ELSIE T. DODSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD T. DODSON
7717 LUXMORE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

BETHANY WESTCOTT WILSON, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 629
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0629

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MICHAEL EUGENE GILBREATH, SR.

DOCKET NUMBER 92679-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 18 day of August, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MICHAEL EUGENE GILBREATH, SR., who died January 24, 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 18 day of AUGUST, 2026.

ESTATE OF MICHAEL EUGENE GILBREATH, SR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ARETHA NOVELLA GILBREATH
3104 VERA DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37917

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ANNA ISABEL KEEHNE
DOCKET NUMBER 92799-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of July, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of ANNA ISABEL KEEHNE, who died May 23, 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 9 day of JULY, 2026.

ESTATE OF ANNA ISABEL KEEHNE

(District 7)

7. ADJOURNMENT: