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PHOTOS BY JAMIE SCHNELL

Former Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs speaks at last week's Freedom Rally, co-hosted by U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett and the Knox County Young Republicans.

Tim Burchett's Freedom Rally kicks off early voting

By Jamie Schnell
schnellj@knoxfocus.com

Jackson Terminal in Knoxville was filled with patriotic spirit as the Knox County Young Republicans co-hosted Tim Burchett's Freedom Rally on October 13, the night before early voting began. The Knox County Young Republicans is a local organization for young conservative leaders and activists in Knox County.

Voting and early voting were the main topics, and the room was filled with excitement as community members came together to have their voices heard. The evening opened with a prayer, then featured a series of speakers, including former Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, who urged people to get out and vote and to encourage their friends, family, and neighbors to do the same.

State Representative Elaine Davis said she wants to see students succeed in our state and wants to elect leaders who "don't make it more difficult to succeed." She said, "Tennessee should be a state where you have the opportunity and the freedom to start a business, raise a family, and build a future."

The crowd erupted, waving campaign signs high in the air as Congressman Tim Burchett stepped onto the platform to speak. Senator Marsha Blackburn, introduced as the next governor, made a striking entrance by singing Dolly Parton's "9 to 5." Other guests included state legislators Richard Briggs, Jason Zachary, Justin Laferty, Dave Wright, Randy McNally and Michele Carlinger. The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed, with admission and food



Congressman Tim Burchett speaks with a constituent at the Freedom Rally held last week. Burchett, who is seeking reelection, was joined by Senator Marsha Blackburn, candidate for governor, and several members of Knox County's state delegation.

provided free of charge, encouraging people to embrace the Republican spirit.

Attendees had the

chance to ask questions directly to the leaders who will influence their future. The evening concluded

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Council overturns planners' approval of Kerbela Temple zoning

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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There was a sea of green shirts and Shriners fez hats during Tuesday's city council meeting as two sides met during an appeal of the planning

commission's split approval (7-6) of a zoning plan for the historic Knoxville Kerbela Temple property.

In green were the members and supporters of the South Waterfront Advisory and Advocacy Group. **Continue on page 4**

Police department grant request sparks comments

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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An application to the U.S. Justice Department for funds for the Knoxville Police Department drew some comments and one unusual statement at last week's city council meeting.

The Knoxville Police Department's request to apply for a \$158,586 federal grant was removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for discussion. The funding, if approved by the city and the justice department, would go to the police department with no match in funding from the city.

Two citizens, Elizabeth Cox and Rich Roach, spoke against the request and charged that the city continues to not establish an alternative response team for domestic violence calls. Cox said that Chief Paul Noel "gets whatever he asks for."

At-large Councilwoman Amelia Parker asked Chief Noel how the funds would be used, and Noel replied that the funds

would be shared with the county and are requested annually to help fund radio training and other activities. At-large Councilwoman Lynne Fugate said more information should accompany such requests.

District 6 Councilman Denzel Grant said he was supporting the request to apply for the federal funds, but also said he had received an anonymous letter with a police department return address that contained numerous charges. He did not reveal the accusations but added the unsigned letter contains "information, true or not."

"We need, at some point, to address this," he said, holding up the envelope.

The approval of the application for funding passed 8-1, with Parker voting "No."

In other action, the city council voted to re-establish its audit committee and move forward on naming the chairperson and audit members in the

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Celebrate the Magic of Autumn at Fourth Annual Hallo-Week at Ijams Nature Center October 20-31

As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, a season of enchantment, wonder, and fun awaits during the fourth annual Hallo-Week at Ijams Nature Center!

The nonprofit nature center will host a variety of festive, family-friendly programs, from night paddles and fungi identification to spooky stories and trick-or-treat adventures in an enchanted forest from Oct. 20 to Oct. 31.

Hallo-Week combines nature, imagination, and community to celebrate the season. Whether you're a lifelong nature lover or simply seeking some fall excitement, there's something for every age and interest.

Each event requires its own ticket, and space is limited. To view the full schedule and event descriptions, and to purchase tickets or reserve a space, visit ijams.org/hallo-week-at-ijams.

Featured Events

Oct. 20 - Spooky Poetry Night with Knoxville Poetry Slam (7-9 p.m.)

Join the Knoxville Poetry Slam and Ijams

Oct. 20 for a hauntingly fun night of haikus, poems, sonnets, and more at Spooky Poetry Night! This event features an Open Mic for poets who wish to share their work (major bonus points for bringing works that feature a spooky theme)!

Oct. 21 - Playing 'Possum (6-7 p.m.)

Learn about Ijams' newest animal ambassador: Orta, a young Virginia opossum! These misunderstood marsupials enrich our ecosystem and use cool adaptations to survive in their environment. Along with an animal presentation, you'll learn the basics of nature journaling and make your own opossum masterpiece!

Oct. 21 - Improv in the Wild with Manatee Vanity Improv (7 p.m.)

Get ready for a night of big laughs, bold choices, and completely unscripted comedy as Manatee Vanity Improv presents four improv groups that bring their own style, energy, and surprises to the stage. Teams include the Manatee Vanity Level

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Nick Smith, an Ijams teacher naturalist, teaches children about Stevie, an eastern screech owl.



3D Chess

"... Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I love my hometown of Knoxville for many reasons, but especially because we have four distinct seasons. About the time I get sick of one season, another rolls in. Fall is perhaps my favorite. Spring is also great, mainly because we're so tired of winter. And being an aging Southerner, I actually like summer's heat, as long as I have AC. The Euros may reconsider AC after last summer's heat wave. I even like winter for a while with Holiday cheer and cozy fires. But I have a little tolerance for February, when winter refuses to loosen its grip.

The leaves have begun to change in Knoxville so I would not need a calendar

to tell me it is October. However, a husband, father and survivor appreciates a bit of help with the birthdays of my girls and the actual day my life was saved.

January is a cold month, fit for snuggling. Perhaps this is the explanation that both my daughters and my wife were born in October. And the end of October marks the date in 2015 when a skilled surgeon removed the cancer threatening to end my life. The picture above shows Autumn's aspen trees in Colorado, which I wanted to experience before my "last chance" surgery. So, you see, October is especially meaningful for me.

I am now on my 76th revolution of the sun and it has been a rewarding, though sometimes challenging, ride. Ancient Romans had

a goddess named Fortuna, from which we get the word fortunate (lucky). I often wonder why I've been so fortunate in this life.

I cannot imagine that I have earned such blessings and salvation. Right now, I have two friends dying of cancer and several others being treated for this scourge. So, why was I spared in 2015 and why am I still alive?

The most plausible explanation for Earth and the cosmos is the creative force and sustaining will of the Creator. This concept is called intelligent design. As a scientist and a Christian, I have spent my life studying this reality which we inhabit. And I can honestly report that it is both mysterious and wondrous beyond my imagination. In his dialogue with God, the ancient prophet Isaiah (55:8) quotes God as stating the obvious: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways."

There is a beautiful story in the Old Testament book of Esther. The Jews were being persecuted and threatened with extinction by the government. A young Jewish woman named Esther was challenged by her uncle to use

her influence with the King to save her people, saying that perhaps "you have come to your royal position for such a time as this."

I have no "royal" position, but perhaps my Focus essays are timely. So perhaps there is a purpose and plan obscure to my limited faculties.

On a less philosophical and theologically lofty plane, the 10th month is notable for the so-called "October surprise" of political skullduggery (unscrupulous behavior, trickery). And like biased political polling, it happens in fall's election cycle.

This time, President Trump's diesel deal with Russia may be the Republican October surprise. However, the predictable slate of RINOs and Democrats playing checkers have again joined forces to oppose Trump's 3D chess moves.

Notably, the hypocritical and feckless Euros have been buying Russian oil and gas for years, obviously supporting Putin's war. Could the diesel deal be designed to help Americans, while offering an off-ramp for Putin in his disastrous Ukraine war and encouraging Zelensky to make a deal to end the

conflict? I don't know, but doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result is foolish. Perhaps a different approach is warranted.

And even if the war were settled, Trump will not expect a Nobel Peace Prize. The 2026 award was already given to a UN anti-semitite and judge on the so-called International Court of Justice. Like the UN, this court is a joke.

The election season has already begun. I hasten to point out that in 2024 Republicans won because they turned out to vote in sufficient numbers that Democratic skullduggery was not able to overcome. If Patriots show up and vote, America wins. If they don't, socialism wins.

Since Congress could not get its act together and pass the SAVE Act, United States Attorney General Todd Blanche and the Justice Department are at work investigating and arresting illegal voters. Already 100s of illegal voters in 15 states have been indicted, and many more are under investigation. If I were an illegal voter, I certainly would not vote and risk being identified, prosecuted, jailed and deported.

Last week on Instagram, a list of the Trump Administration's many accomplishments appeared. Similarly, I've been doing the same for the last several weeks. Like many of you, I dislike negative campaign ads. But unfortunately, positive messaging is often less impactful than negative sound bites and snapshots. Candidates who run as Democrats or Republicans must accept and be judged by the positions of their party affiliation.

Republicans are far from perfect, but the platform of the Democrats and the socialists who now control that party is dangerous. I will be voting against "transing children," packing the Supreme Court, reopening the border to illegals, blanket citizenship for illegals, men in women's sports and bathrooms, no limits on abortion, resumption of impeachments with government paralysis, and I could go on, but I won't.

So, as you go to the polls and vote (and you must!) consider that, like Esther, you are there for a time such as this.

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

KCHD to Offer Free Flu Shots for Fight Flu TN 2026

The Knox County Health Department will offer free flu shots at five locations as a part of the Tennessee Department of Health's Fight Flu TN Day. Fight Flu TN will take place on Oct. 20 with locations across the state offering free flu shots.

KCHD will offer the vaccines at the following locations:

Knox County Health Department
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
140 Dameron Avenue

Knox County Health Department West Clinic
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
9000 Executive Park Drive, Suite A301B

Mission District Safe Space
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
505 Depot Avenue

Emerald Youth East Area Ministry Complex
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
2410 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

Free food will be available at this location in partnership with New

Direction Health Care Solutions and Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee.

Lonsdale Elementary
4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
1505 Louisiana Avenue

The clinics are open to the public. KCHD will vaccinate insured and uninsured adults and children at no cost to the patient.

No appointments are needed.

Police department grant request sparks comments



FROM KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY MEDIA.

District 6 Councilman Denzel Grant holds up the anonymous letter he received on Knoxville Police Department stationery that had accusations of wrongdoing. He didn't reveal the contents but said the charges should be addressed at some point.

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future.

Mayor Indya Kincannon appointed John Heins to the Environmental Appeals Board, approved an agreement with Premise Health Employer Solutions LLC to manage the city's employer-sponsored health center and field offices, and approved a request for 507 South Gay Street to encroach on the South Gay Street right-of-way.

Engineering services for the Tazewell Pike Corridor Study were approved in a contract with Gresham Smith at \$248,023. A five-year agreement with IRA Rinks East LLC was approved for lease of the ice skating and equipment services for the Market Square Holidays on Ice rink.

Tim Burchett's Freedom Rally kicks off early voting

Cont. from page 1

to the veterans present, who responded by placing their hands over their hearts as he acknowledged their service. That moment acted as a reminder of the sacrifices that enable people to vote. Blackburn then thanked everyone for caring about issues important to Tennesseans and urged everyone to "show up at the polls."

As the evening came to an end, guests kept talking with the representatives and each other. The feeling of civic pride and community connection lasted well after the final handshake. It was a fitting end to a night focused on the heart of Tennessee, where community and country come together on the way to the polls.

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Published by Fountain Printing and Publishing, Inc.
Deadline for ad design is Monday at 5 p.m.
Deadline for Classified ads is Thursday at noon.
Deadline for submissions is Thursday by noon.
Articles, announcements, photo attachments and cutlines may be submitted by e-mail to staff@knoxfocus.com.
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Publisher's Position

Vote YES On State And City Amendments



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Editor's note: This week's *Publisher's Position* is reprinted from the October 5 edition of *The Knoxville Focus*. Early voting is ongoing through October 29, with the general election on November 3. For more information on where to vote, please visit knoxvotes.org.

Voters will have an opportunity to vote on three proposed amendments to the Tennessee Constitution on the upcoming ballot. Voters inside the City of Knoxville will also have the opportunity to vote on an amendment to the city's charter.

Constitutional Amendment #1:

This amendment to our state's constitution will allow courts to hold certain defendants without bail pending a trial. That will only occur when the defendant is charged with a crime that can be punished with the death penalty or such crimes that involve acts of terrorism, second-degree murder, aggravated rape of a child, aggravated rape, grave torture, or any crime for which a convicted person would be required to serve 85% of the sentence given them.

The proposed amendment requires that any court must state on the record the reasons for having reached a decision whether to grant bail or deny bail in such cases.

It is certainly true that some crimes are so terrible that a person charged with a particularly heinous act is not released back into society while a trial is pending. Certainly, someone charged with a crime is entitled to a speedy trial, but we all know oftentimes attorneys keep kicking the case down the road for weeks, months and sometimes years. That places people in all walks of life at risk from a possible predator or worse. Someone charged with a crime can receive a speedy trial if his/her attorney doesn't employ delaying tactics to keep him/her out of a courtroom. The best assurance of someone receiving

a speedy trial is to make sure they are no threat to society and give them some incentive to have their day in court.

Constitutional Amendment #2:

This amendment is quite clear in its intent and meaning. It prohibits the legislature from imposing a state property tax on real, personal or mixed property. In other words, it keeps the state legislature from trying to increase your property taxes on your home or property so they have more to spend. Keep in mind, renters pay property taxes, too, as landlords almost always pass along any tax hike to their tenants. What the free spenders won't tell you is that increasing the property taxes increases mortgages and rents.

Constitutional Amendment #3:

This proposed amendment is the lengthiest on the ballot. In short, it proposes to clarify the existing rights of victims of crime, as well as add new rights. Amendment #3 proposes to place into our state constitution the rights of victims of crime to ensure they have the right to be informed and participate in the parole process of the criminal, the person who victimized and harmed them. It also protects victims of crime from being harassed, intimidated and abused. It requires victims to be notified of the minimum sentence to be served by the criminal, as well as the scheduled release date. It requires that the victim, the victim's family and the public's safety be taken into account before the convicted criminal can

be released. This amendment is vital to anyone who believes that the victims of crimes should have rights and be protected from further injury and harm.

City of Knoxville Charter Amendment:

Currently, elections in the City of Knoxville require a subsequent run-off even if a candidate receives a majority of the vote in the first election. This amendment to the city charter simplifies the process, as any candidate receiving a majority of the vote in the primary is declared the victor. The entire purpose of a runoff election is for a candidate to acquire a majority of those voting. It makes little sense to have the same election over again when a candidate has already won a majority.

Celebrate the Magic of Autumn at Fourth Annual Hallo-Week at Ijams Nature Center October 20-31

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1 Student Showcase, UT's Cumberland Strip Tease, the Librarians, and Nothing Prepared, with the accompaniment of Michael Ray on keyboard.

Oct. 23 - Ijams After Dark: Mischief Night (7-9 p.m.)

Discover Ijams after dark during this experiential adventure! You'll meet some of Ijams' nocturnal animal ambassadors, learn about some not-so-creepy critters, and take a fun-filled, guided hike on the trails. This Halloween-themed program focuses on all the mischief critters get into at night!

Oct. 24 - Storytime at the Ijams Nature Playscape at Grayson Subaru Preserve (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Head into the woods to listen to a selection of books read by volunteer storytellers. This week's theme is Fairy Tales. You'll also enjoy themed crafts and explore the Playscape at this FREE program!

Oct. 24 - October Stained Glass Workshop with Visualize Art Studio (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Create your own stained glass bat, hummingbird, or cowboy hat with Visualize Art Studio! This two-hour abridged introductory class provides students with a pre-cut and ground kit so they can learn how to copper-foil and solder their

piece.

Oct. 24 - Ijams Enchanted Forest (3-8 p.m.)

Dress up in your costume and get ready for a night of tricks and (lots of) treats in the Ijams Enchanted Forest! This event features seasonal crafts, games, and activities; Ijams animal ambassadors; and tasty treats, as well as some magical, life-sized critter puppets from Cattywampus Puppet Council!

Oct 25 - Full Moon Paddle: Celebrating the Hunter Moon (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Get ready for a beautiful evening on the river under the full moon! Join Ijams naturalists for this two-hour, guided paddle to uncover the secrets of the Tennessee River after dark and learn about the night sky while searching for plants, animals, and geologic features.

Oct. 27 - A Night of Scary Stories with the Smoky Mountain Storytellers Association (7-8:30 p.m.)

Join the Smoky Mountain Storytellers Association for a night of classic ghost stories, urban legends, historical horror, silly tales, and more!

Oct. 28 - Nature Nuggets (10-11 a.m.)

Celebrate birds of prey at Nature Nuggets, a FREE program for children 18

months and older and their caregivers. You'll gather at Jo's Grove, hike, and meet Zoe, Ijams' resident turkey vulture.

Oct. 30 - Starlight Paddle (7-9 p.m.)

Join Ijams naturalists for a two-hour, guided paddle under the stars to uncover the secrets of the Tennessee River after dark and learn about the night sky while searching for plants, animals, and geologic features.

Oct. 31 - Fall Fungi ID: Beginner Workshop (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Out in the field, fungi identification doesn't leave much room for guessing! Join an Ijams fun-guide (naturalist) for this immersive workshop. You'll learn the basics of fungi and lichen anatomy, identification, and their pivotal role in our ecosystems.

Oct. 31 - Storytime at the Ijams Nature Playscape at Grayson Subaru Preserve (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Head into the woods to listen to a selection of books read by volunteer storytellers. This week's theme is bats. You'll also enjoy themed crafts and explore the Playscape at this FREE program!

Oct. 31 - Playing 'Possum (11 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Learn all about Ijams'

newest animal ambassador: a Virginia Opossum! These misunderstood marsupials enrich our ecosystem and use cool adaptations to survive in their environment. Along with an animal presentation, you'll learn the basics of nature journaling and make your own opossum masterpiece!

Ijams Nature Center is a 336-acre nonprofit educational center in the heart of Knoxville and serves visitors of all ages, stages, and abilities. Its mission is to encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. Ijams features 14 miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking, and more. Hundreds of world-class educational programs and events are coordinated and offered annually. Ijams' grounds and trails are open every day from 8:00 a.m. until dusk.

For more information, visit Ijams.org or call 865-577-4717.

Should commissioners' salaries be limited by state law?

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the prior Knox County Commission shifted \$4 million from the school board's budget to the general fund to raise all employee pay from 3 to 6%, the action met some resistance.

The annual budget for FY2026-2027 from former Mayor Glenn Jacobs raised all county employee salaries by 3%. Past commission chairwoman Gina Oster suggested making it 6% by using the school system's excess funds, but few realized at the time that "all employees" included all the Knox County Commissioners and all the Board of Education members.

The school board had to rework its reduced allocation to deal with the loss of the funds. It voted to ask the commission to rescind its additional 3% increase and encouraged the commission to do the same.

Incoming Knox County Mayor Betsy Henderson, a Republican, objected to the commissioners and board members being

included in the higher raise. She was going to put forth a resolution against it but decided to endorse an idea from Democrat Brandon Huckaby, the new 3rd District commissioner.

That resolution, to amend the Knox County Code, Chapter 2, Article II, would require "that any increase to the compensation of County Commissioners and Knox County Board of Education members be equal to the percentage increase set by the state for other County Officials." If it passes in the October 26 regular session, a second reading in November will take place unless it is passed as an emergency ordinance.

Even with the success of a code amendment, commissioners and school board members will continue to receive the higher percentage for the rest of the fiscal year because state and local law mandates that a decrease isn't allowed until the next county budget is presented and approved.

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Council overturns planners' approval of Kerbela Temple zoning

Cont. from page 1
(SWAAG) who opposed the planning approval. In the fez-wearing audience were members of the Kerbela Temple overlooking East Blount and Sevier Avenues. The dispute centers on the Shriners wanting to develop the 5.7-acre site of the temple building at 315 Kerbela Avenue. CR Endeavors had proposed a large, 217-plus unit apartment building to house senior adults. Following public meetings, the developer's request for a Level III Alternative Compliance Review was approved by Knoxville-Knox County Planning in a 7-6 split vote. Janice Tocher and several other SWAAG members asked the council to overturn the planning decision. Ryan Robertson, representing the proposed development, and two residents spoke in favor of the project. Robertson noted the

past meetings with residents and said the original plans were altered after suggestions were made. District 1 Councilmember Karyn Adams said the zoning approval "went back and forth" in planning and pointed to seven violations of the form-based code. She noted that the original proposed apartment building went from 3.5 acres to over 5 acres. She moved to approve the citizens' appeal. Councilmembers Matthew DeBardeleben, Charles Thomas, Nathan Honeycutt and Debbie Helsley spoke on the issue. Helsley gave a "shout-out to the Shriners" and praised the local members for choosing their own developer for the project. The Adams motion to side with the South Waterfront citizens passed in a 5-4 vote, with Helsley, Denzel Grant, Lynne Fugate and Doug Lloyd voting "No."



Janice Tocher, speaking for South Waterfront residents opposing a proposed apartment development on the Kerbela Temple site, noted problems with the sheer size of the project, the building's height, and problems with public access.

PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Knox SOUP announces new name, November 5 community dinner, and call for project proposals

Knox SOUP — Supporting Outstanding Unique Projects — will celebrate its continued mission at a community dinner on Thursday, November 5, 2026. Individuals and groups are invited to submit project proposals for consideration. Knox SOUP, formerly Knoxville SOUP, is a name that better reflects the organization's commitment to supporting community-driven projects throughout Knox County. The organization has always welcomed proposals from across the county, and the

updated name makes clear that its reach extends beyond the city of Knoxville. Knox SOUP is a community-powered dinner where local people pitch ideas that can make Knoxville and Knox County stronger, more connected, and more vibrant. Past funded projects have included greenways and nature trails, exercise equipment for seniors, back-to-school drives, charitable initiatives, and small businesses with a social focus. Additional funded projects can be reviewed on the

KnoxvilleSOUP.org website. At each dinner, up to four individuals or groups are selected to present their projects. Each presenter answers four straightforward questions:
- What's the project?
- Why does it matter to the community?
- How will the funding be used?
- What's the time frame?
After the presentations, attendees vote for the project they want to help fund. The project receiving the most votes earns the evening's People's

Choice funding. Project proposals must be submitted by October 27, 2026, at knoxvilleSOUP.org/SOUP_Proposals. Selected presenters will be notified on October 29. The November 5 dinner will be held at Knoxville First Presbyterian Church, 620 State Street. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and presentations begin at 6:00 p.m. For a suggested \$5 donation, attendees enjoy soup, salad, bread, and dessert, along with the opportunity to vote for their favorite project. Raffle proceeds

provide additional funding to presenting projects that do not receive the top People's Choice award, helping support more than one community idea. Community members are encouraged to attend, bring friends, spread the word, and volunteer. Knox SOUP depends on community participation to make each dinner possible. To submit a project proposal or learn more, visit Knoxville-SOUP.org

TRUNK
or
Treat

Sunday, October 25, 2026
6:00 - 8:00 PM

We will have inflatables and lots of decorated trunks with candy!

The Kona Ice truck will be there so you can purchase your favorite treats.

Everyone Welcome!

Only children will be allowed to Trunk or Treat

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Remembering Jim Whidby and Halloween in Cherokee Caverns

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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I was researching Halloween events in our area, and when I Googled Cherokee Caverns, I found that an old friend, Jim Whidby, had passed away earlier this year. I was surprised and saddened to learn he is gone.

I met Jim years ago when I joined the East Tennessee Grotto, a caving group that was meeting then in Oak Ridge. Jim was leading the group and I followed him and the group, along with my friend and fellow spelunker and historian Roy Price. I was thinking about Jim recently when I came across a photo of him, myself, and Price at the final send-off of "The Heartland" TV series at the Museum of Appalachia a few years ago. All of us had been featured in different episodes of the Bill Landry-hosted show.

Many years ago, Jim became involved in cave preservation and especially in managing Cherokee Caverns, just

off of Oak Ridge Highway northwest of Knoxville. Among the main events Jim directed there was the annual Haunted Cavern or Trick or Treat in the Cave. Visitors to the cave included scouts, universities, and school field trips plus, crowds for special events.

The late father, husband and grandfather was president of Bryon's Printing in Louisville. He married his high school sweetheart, served in the Navy, retired from Sears and spent 37 years preserving and promoting Cherokee Caverns. Fittingly, his family and friends held a private celebration of his life in March at Cherokee Caverns.

Jim was a noted cave historian and an example to anyone who is interested in cave safety, preservation or history.

Trick or Treat in the Cave continues as a tribute to Whidby this year, with tickets available for \$15 online at www.historiccherokeecaverns.com. The cave is wheelchair, mobility scooter- and stroller-friendly and



Roy Price, Jim Whidby and I attending the final celebration of TV's Heartland Series years ago. Whidby, noted caver and Cherokee Caverns' director, passed away earlier this year but his legend lives on at the historic cave just north of Knoxville.

there are places in the cave to sit and rest along the 1/4th mile loop. The remaining dates for the special event are October

23, 24 and 25.

Other events at Cherokee Caverns include Christmas in the Cave and Movies in the Cave.

Cherokee Caverns is located at 8524 Oak Ridge Highway, about 14 miles northwest of downtown Knoxville.

Postage old and new

**OLD MAN'S
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By Harry Brooks
hrbrooks68@gmail.com

I hope your October has been pleasant so far. As the leaves unhook from the tree branches, the once new and green leaves are now colorful and old. This old and new concept has

become a fad with those who mail cards or letters. In fact, I have talked with several folks who, when wanting to send a special message, use the mail service (the slogan is "snail mail") to send a heartfelt message. Some attempt to acquire older stamps or theme stamps to be a part of the total postage on the card or letter. Thus, they use the old with the new.

For instance, when mailing out invitations for a wedding, a "love" stamp becomes part of the postage. Or a sports-themed message using old stamps emphasizing various sports might be used for a birthday card or invitation or other celebrations. For

an invitation celebrating someone completing their pilot's license, an airmail stamp, or stamps about aviation, might be combined with a new stamp. The theme would be all about flying and planes.

I recently worked with a customer who was sponsoring a reunion of some military friends and military unit members. He used stamps celebrating various military campaigns such as Korea, Vietnam, WWII, as well as different branches of the military. Those receiving these mailed invitations immediately noticed and remarked on the military theme of the stamps. They surmised that this caused

the attendance at that particular event to be higher than at past ones. The stamp got their attention before they even opened the invitation. A mailed letter with special attention works better than a blanket email or texts. Mailing in advance allowed recipients to mark their calendars and reserve the date.

What about the cost of the old stamps? Older stamps will be worth the face value price on the stamp. Stamps today cost 82 cents for a regular letter, with postcards being slightly less. Giving special attention to an event using "special postage" is more effective with a unique set of stamps. Think about

using that on the next card or letter you mail.

I hope you continue to enjoy your stamp collecting. Remember the Knoxville Philatelic Society stamp club meets the first Tuesday of each month at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church on Kingston Pike. If you are a stamp collector or have an interest in starting the hobby, we would be happy for you to join us. If you have any questions about stamps or need assistance concerning stamps, you can contact me at Old Man Stamp's Store at (865)604-0164 or at hrbrooks68@gmail.com. I am the old man! Happy collecting.

Fort Sanders and the Bijou Theatre Part One

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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You probably know that Knoxville's Fort Sanders neighborhood was named for General William Sanders, a Kentucky native who played a vital role in the Union capturing and holding East Tennessee during the Civil War. But do you know the rest of the story and what connection he had with a historic and still-standing downtown building?

October 1863 was important in the war effort, which finally led to the capture of the long-held Confederate-controlled region. The role Sanders played was vital, and the Yankee force lost a true hero at the hands of a sniper.

Here's the story and it's worth retelling.

Colonel Sanders Hits and Runs

In the spring of 1863, Cumberland Gap was firmly in Confederate hands again, and it seemed, for a few months, that the war had moved elsewhere. However, by September the historic pass would again come under siege and then fall to the forces of General Ambrose Burnside in a confusing situation that is still debated.

Burnside's route to take the gap was similar to General George Morgan's the year before, in that he bypassed a direct attack by taking to the mountains to the west and approaching the fortifications from the south. Yet the eventual route of the mass march was tested and tried a month earlier in a daring raid by some 1,500 cavalry under the noted William P. Sanders, a colonel at the time.

Continue on page 4

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You should vote

Well, this past Wednesday marked the beginning of the midterm elections. Early voting will go on through October 29, and Election Day will be upon us. For me, it's



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

always an exciting time when elections are held because discovering who will be our representatives is so important.

Here in Tennessee, elections lack the mysteries that occur in other states. Our state is considered a solid red one. Candidates in the other party rarely prevail in major races. That is sad to me because I'd like to see how much different things might be in Tennessee if Democrats got the chance to run things. I suspect not much difference would be noticeable. I compare our Senate and congressional races to be much like contests between U.T. and Alabama over the last decade-plus. The Vols often put up a wonderful battle, but in the end, we fall short. Our last win against the Tide

was so exciting that fans stormed the field, tore down the goalpost, and threw it in the Tennessee River. That last part seems to defeat the purpose, but it is what it is.

As a fan of politics, I enjoy keeping up with elections across the country. Some incumbents are not that likable, so I pull for their defeat. Others bring new ideas or have captivating personalities, and they become folks for whom I pull. No, I can't vote for them, but just watching their race with another candidate is good enough.

Maybe we voters should begin drawing brackets as is done for March Madness. Everyone who takes part can choose winners from across the country. The one who chooses the most correct folks would win the pot. Come to think of it, doing something like this might increase the number of eligible voters who cast ballots. Being able to choose our own leaders is one of the many gifts

that democracy bestows.

We are a divided nation right now, and the animosity among sides is unfortunate. The fact is that the person who receives the most votes in these races will win. That's the way democracy works. Sure, I've experienced plenty of humbling when my candidates have lost, but I recognize the process and accept it as long as everyone plays fair.

For too long, my generation has been in control of the government. The time has come for younger individuals to take the reins. We old folks are living in this world, but most of us don't understand many of the things that are part of modern-day life. Still, we old codgers owe it to ourselves and this country to participate in the election process. I know some will say that the effort is not worth anything when a preferred candidate has as much chance of winning as a snowball has in hell. I tell everyone that if he or she chooses not to vote, they have no right to complain.

So, this year, let's surprise the prognosticators by voting in bunches. This election can be the start of a new tradition where citizens show their courage and loyalty by casting ballots. It doesn't take that long, and doing so always makes folks feel better. If you choose not to vote, then sit down and hush and accept whatever befalls you.

So Everybody Knows

This is a follow-up to last week's article on why we should let everyone know that all good in our lives comes from God. There is something strangely beautiful about an old, cracked vessel. Most of us would probably pass it

over for something newer, cleaner and unblemished. We tend to value what is polished, whole and impressive. Cracks make us nervous because cracks suggest weakness. We spend a lot of time trying to hide the cracks. We fix what we can. Cover what we cannot. Polish the surface. Keep the weak places out of view. That is human nature. We want people to see the finished product, not the damage it took to get there.

Sometimes, however, the cracks are what make the story worth telling. The Apostle Paul once used the picture of an ordinary clay or earthen vessel to describe human life. He wrote, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." His point was simple: The value was never in the container; it was always in the content. In Paul's day, clay jars were common. Cheap. Fragile. Easily broken. Nobody displayed one because of its beauty. Its value came from whatever



By Justin Pratt,
Clear Springs Baptist Church Senior Pastor

it carried. That is still true of us.

We like to believe strength is what makes our story impressive, but often it is the opposite. Sometimes the most powerful part of a person's life is not that they never broke, but that God

proved faithful in the breaking. There is a difference between pretending the battle was easy and testifying that God was good. You do not have to say the diagnosis didn't scare you, pretend the loss did not hurt, act like the season was simple, the grief was shallow, or the fear was small. You can say, "It was hard." "I was scared." You can say, "There were days I did not know how I was going to make it." And then you can say, "But God was faithful." That is not weakness. That is testimony. A Christian testimony isn't meant to impress people with where we've been or what we've done. It should impress people with the God who brought you through it.

Think about a cracked clay jar with a light burning inside it. The cracks don't create the light; they give it a place to shine through. That is what some of our scars do. The place you wish had never been broken may become the very place where someone

else sees hope. The season you would never choose to relive may become the story someone else desperately needs to hear. The wound may become the window, the scar the evidence and the broken places may become the place where the treasure finally becomes visible.

We live in a world that puts too much emphasis on the container. Appearances. Titles. Accomplishments. Image. Strength. God has always used ordinary people, weak people, wounded people and imperfect people to carry something far greater than themselves.

That way, when the story is told, the emphasis doesn't stay on the person; it returns to the One who carried them.

So, if someone asks how you made it, tell them. If they ask how you survived, tell them. If they ask how you kept going when your strength ran out, let them know. Not so they are impressed with the container, but so that they understand something about the power and the sweetness of the content. So everybody knows. Sometimes the cracks in the vessel are exactly what allow people to see the treasure inside. And when they do, make sure they know where the glory belongs.

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Who Keeps the Engagement Ring When the Wedding Is Called Off?

An engagement ends badly. The wedding is canceled, the families are upset, and then someone asks the question that can turn an emotional breakup into a property dispute: who gets the ring?



By Jedidiah McKeenan
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In Tennessee, an engagement ring is generally treated as a conditional gift. The ring is given with an implied condition that the couple will actually get married. If the marriage does not happen, the condition was never completed.

The Tennessee Court of Appeals addressed this issue in the 2007 case of Crippen v. Campbell. The court held that if the marriage does not occur, ownership of the ring never fully passes to the person who received it, and the person who gave the ring is entitled to have it returned.

What if the person who bought the ring is also the person who called off the wedding? What if that person cheated or otherwise caused the breakup? Under the rule adopted in Crippen, fault does not control the answer. The court did not want every dispute over an engagement ring to become a trial about who ruined the relationship. If the wedding does not happen, the ring goes back to the person who gave it.

The answer changes once the couple gets married. At that point, the condition has been satisfied, and the engagement ring becomes a completed gift. Tennessee courts have treated the ring as the recipient's separate property in a later divorce, rather than an asset that must be divided between

the spouses.

Of course, unusual facts can create unusual results. There may be a dispute about whether the jewelry was really an engagement ring, whether both people paid for it, or whether there was a separate written agreement about a family heirloom. If someone sells, loses, or refuses to return the ring, the fight may shift from return of the ring to payment of its value.

So the basic Tennessee rule is fairly clean. No marriage means the engagement ring goes back to the giver. Marriage means the gift is complete and the ring belongs to the person who received it.

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

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The Gentlelady From New York

Edna F. Kelly

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Edna Flannery Kelly spent 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she represented Brooklyn. Mrs. Kelly was the first woman to be elected to Congress from New York City and made her presence felt in the House.

Things might have been very different for Edna Kelly had it not been for an accident. The youngest of five daughters, Edna Flannery attended and graduated from Hunter College in New York, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and economics at a time when it was not common for women to go past high school. Edna Flannery married Edward L. Kelly, a lawyer, and they had two children together. Governor Herbert Lehman appointed Ed Kelly as a justice of the New York City Court in January 1942. Just a few months later, Kelly was fatally injured in an automobile accident. Edna Flannery Kelly might well have been content to raise her children had it not been for her husband's death. Mrs. Kelly found a mentor and ally in Irwin Steingut, who was the political boss of Brooklyn as well as the minority leader in the New York General Assembly. Steingut urged Mrs. Kelly to join as many organizations as she could participate in, one of which was the Madison Democratic Club, which had enjoyed far better days. Needing to support her children, Mrs. Kelly was hired, likely through the influence of Irwin Steingut, as a research director for the New York State Assembly in 1943. In 1944, Edna Kelly ran for and was elected to the executive committee of Kings County's Democratic Party, becoming a leader alongside Steingut.

The congressman from New York's Tenth Congressional District was Andrew L. Somers, who was first elected in 1924 at the age of 29, which earned him the nickname of "the boy congressman." Somers entered St. Alban's Naval Hospital in Queens on March 1, 1949, complaining of stomach pains. Somers's office did not disclose the precise ailment but issued a press release insisting he was "recovering nicely," although the statement indicated the congressman would need "two or three weeks more treatment." On April 6, 1949, came the startling news that the 54-year-old congressman had died. According to doctors at the Naval Hospital, Somers had died from cirrhosis of the liver and additional "complications." More than 1,000 people paid their respects to the fallen congressman at his funeral.

Vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives are different from those in

the United States Senate. When a senator dies or resigns from office, the governor of his or her state appoints someone who fills the vacancy until the next regular election. When a congressman dies or resigns, a special election is called by the governor of that state and the people elect his or her replacement. Edna F. Kelly was selected by her party as their nominee to succeed the late Andrew L. Somers on July 15, 1949. Years later, Mrs. Kelly said her selection had been due to Democratic leaders recognizing the need to promote female candidates. "They felt this was the time to recognize the work of women," Edna Kelly recalled. "I had been a long time working in the Democratic Party." New York's Tenth Congressional District was safely Democratic and had large Jewish and Catholic populations.

Mrs. Kelly proved to be an attractive candidate and was easily elected to succeed Andrew Somers. As a new member of Congress, Edna Kelly backed the administration of President Harry Truman, both in his foreign and domestic policies. As a candidate, Mrs. Kelly had pledged her support for Truman and said she would vote to continue funding for the Marshall Plan and enthusiastically backed the participation of the United States in the United Nations. Mrs. Kelly proclaimed she was for aid to the new state of Israel and supported NATO. Edna Kelly also talked about issues that resonated with women and spoke with authority when she said the federal government ought to help develop centers for childcare. Mrs. Kelly decreed that there needed to be a congressional investigation as to why the price of milk had skyrocketed. Edna Kelly also said she was opposed to excise taxes on cosmetics.

After winning the special election, Edna F. Kelly became the first woman to represent New York City in Congress. Mrs. Kelly quickly introduced herself to the other women in both the House and the Senate (Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was the lone woman in the Senate) and encouraged dinners where the women could discuss legislative matters. Success in serving on legislative bodies can be traced to interpersonal relationships, and Mrs. Kelly became warm personal friends with two of her colleagues, Congresswoman Leonor Sullivan of Missouri and Congresswoman Martha Griffiths of Michigan. Sullivan and Kelly shared the sad experience of widowhood.

A comely woman when first elected, Edna F. Kelly



UPI TELEPHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Congresswoman Edna F. Kelly of New York in 1968.

chastised some reporters for noticing her appearance. "Please don't describe me as attractive," she said. "Just say I have common sense!"

As a freshman legislator, Edna Kelly sought an assignment to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and promptly received the backing of the other 44 members of New York's House delegation who urged her to be appointed to a vacancy on the committee. Kelly was asked by President Truman and Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn to defer to newly elected Congressman Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. So did Roosevelt's mother, former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Edna Kelly flatly refused.

Political pressure was applied to Kelly's political patron, Irwin Steingut, who told Mrs. Kelly, "I just got a call from Sam Rayburn. I understand you want to be on the Foreign Affairs Committee." "Yes, Irwin, I do," Kelly replied. Steingut told Rayburn, "Well, give Edna what she wants." The speaker, powerful though he was, noted the New York House delegation was solidly behind Edna Kelly rather than Franklin Roosevelt Jr. The speaker also had to take measure of the support Mrs. Kelly had inside the Democratic Caucus as well as the highly influential Ways and Means Committee. More than a few fellow congressmen did not view the younger Roosevelt's ambitions with much favor, viewing him as a playboy and a dilettante. FDR Jr. did eventually get a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee after the House leadership expanded the committee's membership. As many of his colleagues had suspected, the House was merely a stop on Roosevelt's way to follow in his famous father's footsteps. Franklin Roosevelt Jr. left the House in 1954 to run for attorney general of New York and lost to Republican Jacob Javits. Edna Kelly served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee throughout the entirety of her 20 years in the House of Representatives.

Congresswoman Edna Kelly worked hard and had earned her committee assignment, and she relished the opportunity to play an important role in the House. Mrs. Kelly voted to increase foreign aid to the Republic of South Korea, a measure which failed by a single vote. John McCormack of Massachusetts, the tall and lanky House Majority Leader, said presciently, "We're going to resent this vote." Indeed, they did, as later that same year North Korea invaded the South, triggering the Korean War, which involved American armed forces.

Congresswoman Kelly was vehemently anti-Communist and proceeded to lecture Secretary of State John Foster Dulles about the huge shipments of arms to Middle Eastern countries by the Soviet Union. Kelly pressed Dulles to "tell the world what the Russians are doing." Dulles, a Republican, snapped, "Edna, you want war?" "You're going to get war if you don't do it," Kelly shot back.

Kelly also earned the respect of most of her colleagues. As the House considered a \$7.9 billion foreign aid package offered by President Truman, Congresswoman Edna F. Kelly introduced an amendment which would cut out the flow of U.S. dollars to Yugoslavia, which was a Communist-dominated country. Kelly's amendment was adopted by the House of Representatives. Likewise, Congresswoman Kelly was successful in attaching another amendment to the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act in 1954, the effect of which made it illegal to sell surplus commodities to the Soviet Union or its satellite countries.

Edna Kelly's hardline attitude against Communism was highly popular with the people of her working-class district as well as many of those in the upper middle class. In 1954, Kelly faced a challenge from GOP candidate Abraham Sher, who ran on the odd platform of having the government of the United States officially

recognize Communist China, something the congresswoman adamantly opposed.

Kelly had entrenched herself inside New York's Tenth Congressional District through her close attention to the casework generated in her House office. That same high level of service to her constituents made her unbeatable at the polls. Back home in her district, Kelly held office hours at the Democratic Madison Club headquarters where she visited with those constituents who needed help. Kelly was careful to kindly turn away small gifts offered by constituents, gently reminding them, "This is my job."

Being easily reelected led to increased seniority, and that brought Kelly the chairmanship of a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee. As the chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Edna Kelly set out to do her homework. Over a period of time, Kelly visited Europe five times on fact-finding tours. President John F. Kennedy named Congresswoman Kelly to the American delegation to the United Nations in 1963, where she worked hand in glove with America's Ambassador to the UN, two-time presidential nominee Adlai Stevenson.

One fellow House member later recalled traveling with Edna Kelly and marveled at the number of people the congresswoman knew. The congressman said it was "like going abroad with Mata Hari," noting, "She had innumerable contacts ... that were not available at all to the State Department."

Mrs. Kelly's charm also served her well and enabled her to worm out nuggets not readily known by the State Department. While in Yugoslavia, Congresswoman Kelly attended an official dinner with high-ranking Communist officials who were her hosts. One of the Communist hosts mentioned having visited North Vietnam and casually said he had seen its leader, Ho Chi Minh, who had disappeared from public view

for months. "Oh, you mean my old friend, Ho? How is he?" Kelly wondered. That brought forth a statement from her delighted host that Ho had been seriously ill for quite some time, information the State Department had not been able to confirm.

Throughout her time in the House, Congresswoman Kelly was an unwavering supporter of the war in Vietnam both during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. The Vietnam War became increasingly unpopular in the United States, and especially inside the Democratic Party outside the South. One such measure of the war's unpopularity was the fact that Congresswoman Kelly had demolished a challenger inside the Democratic primary in 1964 by winning nearly 75% of the vote. An anti-war challenger inside the 1966 primary, Eugene Victor, held her to 52% of the vote, a very close call for a longtime incumbent.

What ended Edna Kelly's congressional career was redistricting, which has helped to end many careers inside the House of Representatives. Mrs. Kelly's district was combined with two other House districts, which dramatically changed the composition of her constituency. The greater part of her district had a majority of Black voters, and the Democratic leader for the area had endorsed the candidacy of Shirley Chisholm, who was also Black. The other district had been carved out for the Dean of New York's delegation in the House, Emanuel Celler, who had first been elected to Congress in 1922. Kelly ran against the venerable Celler, who was chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and lost badly, winning less than a third of the vote. Kelly went home to Brooklyn, where she lived until a stroke forced her to move in with her daughter. Edna Kelly died in Alexandria, Virginia, on December 14, 1997, at the age of 91.

Fort Sanders and the Bijou Theatre *Part One*

Cont. from page 1

Burnside planned two actions against the Rebels at the same time, sending General Julius White against the salt works at Prestonburg, Kentucky, and Sanders on a quick hit-and-run excursion aimed primarily at the East Tennessee railroads.

White's raid petered out because of weather and a shortage of men, but Sander's mission was more than completed. Sanders commanded volunteers of different units, which included 700 men of the East Tennessee Infantry under Colonel R.K. Byrd; 200 men of the 112 Illinois; 150 men of the Seventh Ohio; 150 men of the Second Ohio; 100 men of the First Kentucky Volunteers; and an unknown number of men of the First Regiment of Ohio Artillery.

Sergeant "Studs" Reynolds, of Cooper's original First Tennessee, served as guide for the ambitious raid. A year earlier he had guided various raids from Camp Spears and Cumberland Gap into the mountain Rebel camps. The raiders left Mount Vernon, Kentucky, on June 14, rode to Williamsburg, then to Marsh Creek in McCreary County, Kentucky, and south to Huntsville, Tennessee, up Brimstone Branch, and

over Cumberland Mountain to exit at Wartburg.

At Wartburg, Sander's force surprised a Rebel camp and captured the garrison. Sanders then went to Lenoir Station, burned the depot, a cotton factory, and destroyed telegraph lines and railroad track there. Sanders captured an artillery detachment there, three cannons, eight officers, and 47 lower-ranked Rebel soldiers.

He was preparing to burn the Lenoir Cotton Mill when Dr. Benjamin Ballard Union passed among the Lenoir troops displaying secret Masonic signs and the historic mill was spared.

The Yankee raiders also set fire to three railroad bridges, including the long span at Strawberry Plains just east of Knoxville.

By June 19, Sander's force, with prisoners and captured equipment, began an assault on Rebel forces in Knoxville. Union loyalists, mountaineers and bushwhackers had been operating openly in Campbell County, and had lured forces under Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner out of Knoxville to search for them near Big Creek Gap, leaving the city with few Rebel troops.

Sanders attacked from the north, against perhaps 1,000 Confederates, and the artillery battery lasted about an hour. He realized

that even if he captured the town, he could not hold it against returning Rebel forces.

Remembering his original orders to destroy communications, he ended the assault and galloped his force to Strawberry Springs. He continued the destruction and, on June 21, was in New Market. Following two brief fights near there, he decided to circle back into the safety of Kentucky, having proven that a Union force could penetrate East Tennessee by way of the distant Cumberland Plateau. He then took his force toward Roger's Gap west of Cumberland Gap, crossing the Holston River at Hayworth Bend, going through Clinch Mountain at Powder Springs Gap, reaching Powell Valley and skirting the Rebel stronghold at Cumberland Gap.

By then his captives had risen to 120 Rebels, and his train of stores, equipment, cannon and soldiers stretched out some distance. When he approached Roger's Gap, he found the high gap, used the year before by Morgan's Yankees and Kirby-Smith's Rebels, was heavily blockaded with fallen timbers and guarded by Rebel artillery.

Big Creek Gap, to the west, was likewise fortified, so Sanders was forced to look for a third way out of

the Rebel lines and into the safety of Kentucky. He chose, no doubt with the advice of Sergeant Reynolds, a little-known mountain pass some three miles from Roger's Gap known as "Smith's Gap."

This path across was extremely narrow; Sanders called it a "wood path." It permitted the passage, with care, of only one man or one horse at a time. To reach Kentucky this way, Sanders was forced to

dump most of his equipment and artillery, including much of what he had captured.

"The guns, carriages, harnesses, and ammunition were completely destroyed and left," he reported. "The artillery was simply abandoned."

On June 24, his force rode into Boston (now Lot), Ky., near Jellico, and camped in safety at the site of old Camp Spears. He reported that part of his

force became separated after climbing Cumberland Mountain, but had rejoined him at Boston.

Sanders reported to his superiors that during the entire expedition he lost only two men killed by the enemy, four wounded, and thirteen missing, of which five drowned. In his final report of the mission, he also praised Sergeant Reynolds and other guides loaned to him from the First Tennessee.

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KIL CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Duncanson and Vesser repeat as champions

By Steve Williams

Catholic High School's Cade Duncanson and Hardin Valley Academy's Alexandra Vesser repeated as Knoxville Interscholastic League cross country champions Saturday morning at Sequoyah Hills Park on Cherokee Boulevard.

The overcast and blustery weather may have chilled parents and grandparents a little, but running the 5-meter course kept the high schoolers warm.

Don Madgett, the meet director and South-Doyle coach, said the temperature was 52 degrees when the boys took off first.

There wasn't a close finish in either the boys' and girls' race.

Duncanson was timed in 15 minutes and 24.4 seconds and Catholic teammate Reid Bannister crossed the finish line in 15:41.2 as the runner-up.

"The plan coming in today was to hammer from the start," said Duncanson. "Just kind of lose them early. As the defending

champion last year I kind of knew what to do. The main goal was to win as a team but (coming in first) was also a goal. Keeping the 'W' in the Catholic family also was a goal."

Keegan Smith, who is now competing at the University of Colorado, was a four-time KIL champion (2021 through 2024) when he ran at Catholic.

Duncanson also plans to run in college and said he decided two weeks ago that he was going to run at the University of Louisville.

Vesser was all smiles after winning the KIL girls' race in 18:15.7, about 12 seconds ahead of CAK's Sophie Lee (18:27.2).

"It wasn't a super flashy time for me," said Alexandra. "I think it was around 40 seconds behind my PR. I guess today wasn't really about time. It was about going out there and winning for the team. Once we all realized that we finished first, it was something that we really liked."

Continue on page 2



Catholic High's Cade Duncanson shows first place medal and plaque after winning the annual KIL boys' championship Saturday.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Corum scores two OT goals to lift Bearden to district title

By Ken Lay

Leighton Corum is only a sophomore, but she's already etched her name in Bearden High School soccer lore as she helped the Lady Bulldogs win another District 4-3A Championship.

Corum, a forward, scored a pair of overtime goals to lift her side to a 2-1 victory over West High in the district tournament championship match before a packed and spirited house at Turner-Allender Field Thursday night.

The win not only netted the Bearden a district title, it also avenged a regular-season loss to the Lady Rebels, a 2-1 setback on Sept. 29.

But this win obviously didn't come easily for the Lady Bulldogs, who had to score a late goal to send the

Cont. on page 3

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 9

A big fourth quarter lifts Central over Halls

By David Klein

The Battle of Black Oak Ridge lived up to its billing as there were several lead changes and a fourth quarter that saw 43 points between Region 2-5A rivals the Central Bobcats and the Halls Red Devils. Central pulled away in the last half of the fourth quarter to win 49-33.

In the first half, there were two lead changes and efficient running by both teams. Central scored two touchdowns in the last 6:11 of the half to take a 19-13 lead into halftime.

Central quarterback Kaden Long was the star of the night as he passed for two touchdowns and ran for three. Long got the scoring started on a 54-yard touchdown pass to Rondell North. Central missed the

extra point but led 6-0 with 8:30 left in the first quarter.

Halls would immediately answer the Bobcats' touchdown. Knox Burton shook off two defenders as he ran up the middle for a 34-yard touchdown, and Halls made the extra point to take a 7-6 lead with 5:39 left in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Halls added to its lead on a 25-yard field goal by Zander Wilson to make it 10-6 Halls with 8:56 left in the second quarter. Central came back and retook the lead on Long's 6-yard touchdown pass to JJ Sackie to take a 12-10 lead.

Nearly five minutes later, Central added to its lead on Long's 4-yard touchdown run around left end for an 18-10 lead. With the extra point, the

Continue on page 5



Central quarterback Kaden Long hoists the Battle of Black Oak Ridge rivalry trophy in celebration following the Bobcats' 49-33 victory over Halls Friday night. Photo by John Valentine.

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HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Catholic defeats Lipscomb Academy to advance to state quarterfinals

By Ken Lay

Catholic High School opened its Division II-AA State Tournament run with a four-set victory over Lipscomb Academy Tuesday night at home.

The Lady Irish (21-9) defeated Lipscomb Academy, 25-18, 25-19, 25-27, 25-18, to advance to the state quarterfinals. Results for the Saturday game in Eads, Tennessee, were unavailable at press time, but the winner will advance to this week's state semifinals in Murfreesboro.

"We survived and advanced," Catholic coach Brent Carter said following Tuesday night's game.

The Lady Irish cruised in the first two sets against the Lady Mustangs (10-16) as they opened with big leads in both games. Lipscomb pulled to within 19-15 in the opening set.

The Lady Mustangs also rallied from a 16-8 deficit in the second set before scoring five of the next six points to make the score 17-13. Catholic would regain control to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the match.

In the third set, the Lady Irish trailed early, falling behind 6-4. They would, however, rally and open a 19-14 advantage. Catholic would come close to sweeping the Lady Mustangs. The Lady Irish led 24-23 and 25-24. The Lady Mustangs would force a fourth set by scoring three consecutive points to pull to within 2-1 in the match.

"They were playing hard, and they competed well," Carter said of Lipscomb. "We had quite a few chances (to win the third set), but they kept battling."

Catholic, which got 16 kills from Mia Kinney and

12 kills and two digs from Addalyn Neal, bounced back to close out the match in the fourth set as they never trailed in the final game.

"We did what we had to do," Carter said. "I think we served well and we played good defense tonight."

Also in Division II-AA: Webb School of Knoxville was eliminated in the first round. The Lady Spartans fell to Brentwood Academy, 21-25, 25-20, 25-14, 25-23. Webb finishes with a 24-9 overall record.

In Division II-A: Berean Christian School was eliminated in the first round of the state tournament with a 25-18, 28-26, 25-16 loss to Evangelical Christian School.

In Division I Class 2A: Seymour won the Region 2-2A championship with



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Catholic's Mia Kinney prepares to serve as her teammates look on during the Division II-AA State Tournament played at Catholic. Kinney had 16 kills as the Lady Irish defeated Lipscomb Academy in four series.

wins over Kingston and Alcoa and moved on to Thursday's state sectionals, where it fell at home to Elizabethton in four sets, 25-15, 19-25, 25-20, 25-10. The Lady Eagles finish the 2026 season with an overall record of 22-7. They won the regular-season district title with

a perfect 12-0 record, and they also won their district tournament and the region tournament championship.

In Division I Class 3A: Central's magical 2026 campaign came to an end Thursday with a state sectional loss to Science Hill. The Lady Bobcats (33-6)

were swept by Science Hill (41-4). The Hilltoppers prevailed, 25-19, 25-9, 25-20, in Johnson City. Central defeated Hardin Valley Academy in the region tournament on Tuesday at Maryville before losing the region championship match to the host Lady Rebels.

Duncanson and Vesser repeat as champions

Cont. from page 1

Also placing in the Top 10 for the boys were: 3-Stephen Bell (HVA) 15:50.2, 4-Zachary Jenkins (Halls) 15:52.2, 5-Evan Van De Griff (Catholic) 15:59.7, 6-Aiden Ruff (HVA) 16:02.7, 7-Nathan Jurbergs (Catholic) 16:05.3, 8-Chas Temples (Farragut) 16:07.2, 9-Isaac Socha

(HVA) 16:18.4, 10-Talan Sturdevan (CAK) 16:19.5.

Also placing in the Top 10 for the girls were: 3-Zarah Enbom (HVA) 18:40.0, 4-Catlin Daniels (Catholic) 18:48.0, 5-Bennie Diddle (Webb) 18:49.0, 6-Emery Adams (CAK) 18:52.4, 7-Drew Gerken (Catholic) 18:58.7, 8-Haylee Gasparic (CAK) 19:05.7, 9-Zoile

Cours (Farragut) 19:09.5, 10-Olivia Garcia (Catholic) 19:25.3.

Boys' Top 5 team standing: 1-Catholic 29, 2-Hardin Valley 51, 3-West 107, 4-Farragut 115, 5-CAK 146.

Girls' Top 5 team standing: 1-Hardin Valley 40, 2-Catholic 44, 3-CAK 62, 4-Farragut 89, 5-West 126.

Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest Returns Oct. 23

The 2nd Annual Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest & Parade will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, at the John T. O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona St. Residents are invited to bring their pets and enjoy an afternoon of Halloween-themed fun, costumes and community activities.

Hosted by the John T. O'Connor Senior Center, the event brings together older adults, community members and their four-legged companions for a pet costume contest and parade. Participants can dress their pets in creative costumes and compete for prizes in a variety of

categories.

Organizers say the contest welcomes all kinds of costume ideas, from spooky and silly to imaginative and humorous. Spectators are also encouraged to attend and enjoy the parade of costumed pets.

In addition to providing a seasonal community gathering, the \$20 contest entry fee will support ongoing operations at the John T. O'Connor Senior Center.

For more information about the event, contact the John T. O'Connor Senior Center at 865-523-1135 or email mary.sibbett@knoxseniors.org



PHOTO BY GREG ZESINGER / @GZSPORTZ

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Celebrating my 50th anniversary of watching the Tennessee-Alabama football game in 2011

On Oct. 22, 2011, I attended my 50th Tennessee-Alabama game. That journey through a significant time in the history of Vol football started in 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1964, all played on Shields-Watkins Field. I missed the 1965 contest at Legion Field.



By Tom Mattingly

I saw every game from 1966-2011. The contest was played in even-numbered years in Knoxville and in odd-numbered years in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, nearly always on the "Third Saturday in October." I also saw the 2012 game in Knoxville, the 2013 contest in Tuscaloosa, and the six contests in Knoxville between 2014 and 2024.

Our seats were on the North Upper Level that night... way, way up at that end of the field, squarely between the goalposts. The ticket said to enter through Gates 46 or 48 to Section NN, Row 20, seats 1 and 2. I even forked over a King's Ransom (\$5) to get a souvenir program. I had stopped doing that many years before, but this night was special.

From that vantage point, there were a number of illuminating discoveries.

The game program made note of the presence of Sal Sunseri and Jeremy Pruitt on the Tide coaching staff, with no further

comment being necessary.

The "Million Dollar Band" played "Dixieland Delight," but that effort was booed lustily when there were four references made to "Tennessee," according to the lyrics.

The stadium public address announcer, who wasn't bad at his craft, kept calling Curt Maggett ("MUH-jit") Curt "MAG-gut." That was bad form. Anybody ever tell him anything different? Does anyone ever sit down and go over the pronunciation chart with people who call the game?

Speaking of the public address system, what about the incessant notice to fans who might have forgotten who the team was on the field in the crimson jerseys and what sport was being contested: "This is Alabama football!" And everybody cheered.

Then there was the elephant in the room, the subject no one really wanted to talk about. Only when the game was safely in Nick Saban's back pocket did assorted cries of "LSU!" "LSU!" "LSU!" roll across the stadium. That game would come two weeks later.

By the way, it was interesting that many 'Bama fans wore stickers or buttons that read "Auburn ain't s---" or "Go to h---, Auburn." They just couldn't help themselves. Hating Auburn has always been in their blood and seems to occupy their every waking moment.

The folks at the tailgates near the stadium were exceptionally

friendly, welcoming us to town and to Bryant-Denny Stadium. They didn't offer any food or drink, but they were nice.

Speaking of bad form, how about the Tide assistant coach who appeared at the beginning of each quarter on what passed for a JumboTron? It was quite a sight, seeing him raise his voice with veins bulging in his neck, screaming for fans to get involved in the game. This had to have been a dream, a bad one, nonetheless, but still a dream.

It wasn't.

Whenever the late F. M. Williams of The Tennessean, Nashville's morning newspaper, saw something he thought was in bad taste or a breach of decorum, he had a one-word comment at the ready, not quite under his breath, but close.

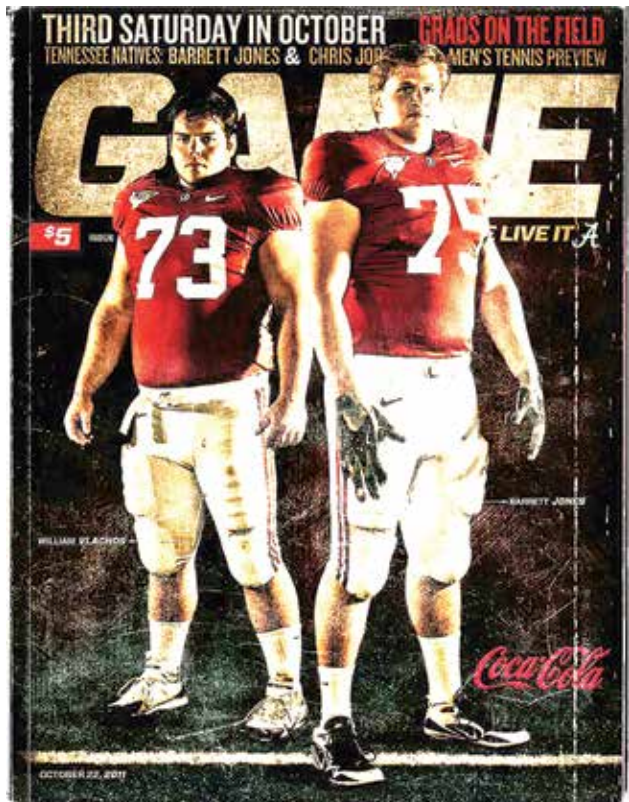
"Bush."

Not "Bush League" – just "Bush."

As usual, there were a number of Alabama fans interspersed throughout the "Tennessee section" in both end zones.

It was quite a 50th anniversary game. I did an interview published in the Friday edition of the Birmingham News, sharing space with a gentleman who had somehow seen 700 consecutive Alabama games. I never got to meet him, but he seemed to be the bigger story.

The trip home was uneventful this time, with no bed sheets draped over I-59 overpasses featuring the score and other



One very special souvenir from the 2011 Tennessee-Alabama game played that season on the Fourth Saturday in October

salient items from the weekend, mostly unprintable, emblazoned thereon.

I missed that.

As I have stated on more than one occasion, there'll be h--- to pay if the SEC messes with this series. It's still a great rivalry.

We returned to our hotel at 2:30 a.m. after a 6:15 p.m. kickoff. I wondered when fans at the LSU game might have arrived at their hotel or home after a prime-time (7 p.m.) start, with

everybody likely staying to game's end.

Anyway, a game at Bryant-Denny beats one at Legion Field (once termed the "Old Gray Lady" or the "Football Capital of the South") hands down. Witnessing the Alabama contest over the years has always been exciting, but there's something special about a game on a college campus.

It's definitely college football the way the gods intended.

CFB Playoff Expansion Inevitable

By Mark Nagi

Well, the best regular season in North American sports is taking yet another body blow.

Last week it was reported that college football at the FBS level is going to expand from twelve teams to twenty-four teams, as early as 2027.

Congratulations, powers that be... You are succeeding in killing the sport we love.

Let's backtrack a bit before we delve into the monstrosity that is about to be thrown upon us. For decades, we were told that protecting the bowl system was paramount. Eventually, the folks running college football realized that there was more money to be made, so the BCS was born in 1998 (Go Vols). The College Football Playoff began in 2014 with four teams becoming eligible to play for the national title.

In 2024, the playoff made the jump from four teams to twelve. Why do that many in one fell swoop? And now, only a couple of years later, they will be expanding the playoff to twenty-four teams.

So, if you are scoring at home, they are going from four teams in the 2023 season to (likely) twenty-four teams in 2027. That is a 500% increase in teams that, in theory, I guess, could win the national championship.

The sport has lost its mind since Alabama was left out of the CFB playoffs in 2024. That Tide team had no business being in that 12-team playoff, but blue bloods will be loud and cranky about any perceived slight.

Remember, Alabama got the benefit of the doubt multiple times in the BCS and playoff areas, most memorably when they got a rematch against LSU in the January 2012 title game.

Well, now with a field of twenty-four, you will never see an Ohio State, an Alabama, or a Texas on the outside looking in. 9-3 will be fine to "earn" a place at the table.

Just get ready for 8-4 SEC and Big Ten teams to get in. With nine-game conference schedules and everyone beating each other up,

you will see the 6th or 7th place teams in those leagues hold that record, and it will not automatically cost them a spot. The only problem will be which 8-4 units get in, because you will get multiple teams with that same record.

Man, that first-round playoff game between 9-3 Minnesota and 8-4 Texas A&M is going to be terrific!

Now, there are parts I like. Finally, we are going to get more games played on college campuses. One of the flaws of the current system was that there were only four games on campus, and the rest at neutral sites.

But overall, it is a flawed solution to no actual problem.

Think about that LSU/Kentucky game a couple of weeks ago. One of the reasons why that game was so entertaining was because of the stakes. Both teams already had one loss, and a second would take away any room for error in the second half of the season for a team to make the playoffs.

But now? No tension, because four-loss teams will make the field.

What this all comes down to is money, but not directly. It is not like the added TV revenue will make a huge difference, as the lucrative conference title games will have to go away. But with football rosters and coaching contracts in the tens of millions of dollars, fans and boosters want a return on their investments. Saying that your team earned a playoff spot means more than saying your team earned a spot in the Poulan Weed-Eater Bowl.

At least for now.

Because very soon first-round playoff exits will not be enough.

Look, college football has been a sea of change ever since the first time Princeton and Rutgers laced their cleats. But between congressional lobbying, unlimited transfers, fights over NIL and compensation, and now the expanded playoff, there has never been more of a threat to what made it so much fun.

College football's uniqueness is dying.



PHOTO BY TAMMY DAVIS KREGAL.

The Bearden Lady Bulldogs celebrate their district championship Thursday. The Lady Bulldogs claimed the title with a 3-1 overtime win at Turner-Allender Field.

Corum scores two OT goals to lift Bearden to district title

Continued from page 1

game to overtime. That marker came from Landree Horner, who found the back of the net in the 78th minute.

The two rivals slugged through a scoreless first half, and the Lady Rebels (9-5-2) broke the 0-0 tie when AG Rose scored in the 52nd minute.

West held the lead until the waning moments of regulation when Horner tallied the equalizer with just over two minutes remaining.

Bearden, however, held the territorial advantage throughout much of the first half and missed on several early scoring chances.

"West has given us a handful in both of our games this year," Bearden coach Ryan Radcliffe said after his squad improved to 13-3-1. "I wish we would've made it easier for ourselves by putting some of those chances away."

Corum gave Bearden its first lead of the match in the 15th minute of overtime, and she added the insurance marker

less than 30 seconds later.

Corum said that she knew the championship match wasn't going to be easy.

"This feels amazing," she said. "Rad told us that this was going to be hard, and it was."

In District 3-3A: Top-seeded Powell outlasted Central, 2-1, in Powell.

The Lady Panthers will now host the Lady Rebels Tuesday in an elimination match of the Region 2-3A Tournament. The Lady Bobcats will travel to Bearden in the other elimination regional semifinal.

In District 3-2A: Seymour defeated Carter, 6-0, in the district championship match Thursday night.

In District 4-2A: Anderson County shut out Gibbs, 2-0, to claim a third consecutive title.

Seymour will host Gibbs in the Region 2-2A Tournament semifinals on Tuesday. The Lady Hornets, meanwhile, will travel to face the Lady Mavericks in

Clinton.

In the Division II-A East Region

Final: Christian Academy of Knoxville and Concord Christian School played to a 1-1 draw in the region championship match. The Lady Warriors were crowned region champions after they prevailed, 5-4, in a penalty kick shootout.

CAK will next play in the state quarterfinals next week, while the Lady Lions will host a first-round state tournament game on Tuesday.

In the Division II-AA East Region:

Webb School of Knoxville concluded its regular season with a 1-1 draw against Chattanooga Baylor Thursday night. The Lady Spartans will next host a state tournament quarterfinal match on Oct. 24.

Catholic, meanwhile, saw its 2026 campaign come to an end Friday night as it fell to Father Ryan, 5-0, in a first-round state tournament match at Blaine Stadium.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL RECOGNITION

'86 A-E team was a 'physical' bunch

By Steve Williams

Austin-East's 1986 football team established itself as one of the most remarkable high school teams in East Tennessee history under the leadership of Head Coach Sam Anderson. The Roadrunners completed a perfect 15-0 season, capturing the TSSAA Class AA state championship. Throughout the regular season, A-E demonstrated dominance on both sides of the ball, scoring 375 points while allowing only 49 points against its first 10 opponents. Maryville was the last challenger before the state playoffs kicked off, and Austin-East blasted the Red Rebels 33-8 in a battle of unbeatens for the District 3-AA title on Oct. 31.

A victory-hungry LeRoy Thompson, one of the best players in the nation, left that game with this to say: "We've got five more in the playoffs. Anything less than five more wins is a losing season." A-E looked like a state champion to Maryville Coach Don Story. "They're a great team and have more physical ability than any team we've ever played," said Story, who had been coaching at Maryville for 18 years. "They're just overloaded with it." In ten regular season games, Thompson rushed for 1,253 yards, scored 24 touchdowns and was the Knoxville Football League scoring champion with 146 points. He also had been a productive receiver and punt returner plus ranked among the state's top

1987 AA National Champions			Opponent	
AE				
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Sept	5	20	Howard	8
Sept	12	53	Holston	7
Sept	19	34	Powell	0
Sept	26	53	West	3
Oct	3	41	Rife	10
Oct	10	52	Fulton	3
Oct	17	42	South Young	10
Oct	24	26	Alcoa	0
Oct	31	33	Maryville	8
15 Wins 0 Losses				



Nov	7	44	Anderson Co	6
Nov	14	46	Seymour	0
Nov	21	32	Marion Co	13
Nov	28	21	Maryville	3
Dec	6	28	Brentwood	20



1987 AA State Champions

defensive backs.

Austin-East continued with an impressive post-season run with victories over Anderson County, Seymour, Marion County, and Maryville before holding off Brentwood 28-20 in the finals at Vanderbilt Stadium in Nashville on Dec. 7.

The Roadrunners' achievement was particularly significant because, at the time, Tennessee high schools competed in only three classifications, with public and private schools facing one another in the postseason. The title game went down to the wire, and senior Morico Hall, a 6-4, 235-pound defensive end, made the winning play on fourth-and-goal with the ball at the 2-yard line. A

lunging Hall tripped up the Eagles' end zone-bound quarterback, John Snow, with a shoestring tackle at the 6. The change of possession left only 23 seconds for QB Mossy Taylor to run out the clock. In the post-game celebration, senior tackle Charles Brown, who went out with a broken leg at the end of the first quarter, was presented the Game Ball. Coach Anderson felt Brown was deserving and said, "Charles typifies the character of this team."

Thompson earned the Class 2A Mr. Football award that year and later played at Penn State before advancing to the NFL. In his super prep career at Austin-East, he rushed for 5,565 yards and scored 84 touchdowns.



Austin-East's 1986 football teammates pictured at the Austin-East v. Carter game Friday night: Von Reeves, Stuart Branner, Mossy Taylor, Sanford "Scout" Smith, Terrell Patrick, Head Coach Sam Anderson, Jermaine Waters, Marcus Mallory, Tony Sales, LeRoy Thompson, Coach Dennis Wolf, Coach Charles Brown, Nate Sumpter and Kevin Saddle



Austin-East
1986 STATE AA CHAMPIONS - 15-0 SEASON
Knoxville, Tennessee • Sam Anderson, Coach

IMAGES COURTESY OF SAMUEL ANDERSON

Austin-East's 1986 state champions celebrate their 28-20 win over Brentwood.

Other notable players included Von Reeves, who went on to play tight end at the University of Tennessee, and Joey Smith, who played at the University of Louisville and spent six years in the NFL with the New York Giants.

Smith also was "Mr. Austin-East" his senior year. He was proud of the school's sports trophies, but added: "I stress more academics over football because I need something to fall back on." Joey played running back,

safety and kick returner in high school, defensive back and return specialist at Louisville and the same in the NFL. "What people don't realize is that he averaged 10-plus yards per carry for A-E," said Anderson.

40-YEAR REUNION BRINGS BACK WONDERFUL MEMORIES: *"It was a wonderful feeling to be back on the field with my old teammates, coaches, and even old fans," said former Austin-East football star LeRoy Thompson Friday night. "My most memorable experiences as a youth occurred at A-E and the foundation that I got there as a student and in sports changed my life."*

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 9

Moffett's 'will to win' keeps CAK unbeaten

By Steve Williams

In a battle of two unbeaten teams, Christian Academy of Knoxville came out on top with a 31-27 win over Grace Christian Academy last Thursday night. Junior quarterback Seaton Moffett turned out to be the hero down the stretch as he took off and raced 17 yards up the middle for the go-ahead touchdown with 1:02 remaining in the game. Bennett Jelks' PAT kick gave the Warriors a four-point lead, and he sealed the victory too with an interception with only 20 seconds remaining. "Culture," said CAK Head Coach Greg Speck, was the key to the win. "Staying together. We talk about surrendering the outcome. This is a connected team and we talked all week and even today in our pre-game meal. We talked about regardless of what happens, we stay together and we get to the next play. And all you can do is win the next play ... and give God the glory, and that's what we do." CAK (5-0 and 8-0) plays at Boyd Buchanan this week, while GCA (4-1 and 7-1) goes to Lakeway Christian. Javey Stinson broke tackles on a 37-yard touchdown run to give the Rams an early lead. Jelks put CAK on the scoreboard with a 32-yard field goal early in the second quarter. Terrion Thomas extended Grace Christian's lead to 13-3 with 2:11 left in the first half, but Beckett Rich blocked the PAT.



Seaton Moffett dives across the goal line in CAK's victory over Grace Christian Academy, 31-27.

PHOTO BY MARIAH CLAY

Before the half ended, Issac Kannah caught a 10-yard pass from Moffett and had runs of eight and 11 yards and added another catch for seven yards to move the ball to the GCA 13-yard line. Moffett took it from there and scrambled nine yards for a TD with 18 seconds left in the half to trim the Rams' lead to 13-10 at halftime. CAK executed some misdirection plays early in the third quarter, and one produced a 14-yard gain by Kannah. An 8-yard sack

by linebacker Darian Anderson, however, forced a punt. Grace Christian quickly added to its lead as Stinson raced 28 yards to the CAK 5. Thomas stretched into the end zone on the next play to give the Rams a 20-10 upper hand. The Warriors were forced to punt again on their next possession. Stinson busted up the middle for a 27-yard gain and Hobson ran for 21 yards to the 10 on the next play. Thomas, getting a block from Hobson, powered to

the 1 and scored on the following play to give GCA a 27-10 command with 3:40 to go in the third quarter. It didn't last, however. Kannah returned the kickoff to the Grace 43. Four plays later, tight end Henley Hayes hauled in a 33-yard pass from Moffett to pull within 10 points. As the game went into the fourth quarter, CAK's Wyatt Howard sacked Hobson for a 4-yard loss, and the Rams were flagged for a holding penalty on the next play. Two incomplete

passes forced GCA to punt. Moffett overcame a six-yard loss in the backfield with an 18-yard pass to Hunter Bennett. On a third-and-13 later in the drive, Moffett got loose for a 24-yard run to the Rams' 14. Moffett gained another 12 yards for a first-and-goal at the 3. Kannah scored behind the right side of the line to cut GCA's lead to 27-24 with 3:48 remaining. Hobson recovered CAK's onside kick, and Stinson gained 33 yards on first down to put the ball at the Warriors' 33. A false start penalty, however, pushed the Rams back to the 38, and they couldn't get any closer. On fourth-and-14 at the 37, Hobson ran up the middle and was stopped at the 34 by senior lineman Elijah Krokowski with 1:32 on the clock. A pass from Moffett to Baker Sterchi plus a flag on GCA moved the ball to the Rams' 21. Kannah gained four yards to the 17 and Moffett did the rest with his scamper up the middle. "He (Moffett) had a phenomenal game," said Coach Speck. "He's an unbelievable leader and competitor. He has that will to win, a refuse-to-lose mentality." GCA Coach Justin Price said: "We didn't play clean football. Our kids played hard. We gave ourselves a chance, but we just made too many mistakes, and that starts with the coaches."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WEEK 9



PHOTO BY JJ SPEARS.

Gibbs High's Reid Daniel (10) eludes a trio of Fulton defenders including Kymani Lawrence (0), Zion Nelson (4) and AJ Parrish (63) Friday night in the Eagles' 31-6 region win over the Falcons on Senior Night at Ernest Whited Stadium.

Gibbs gets defensive in win over Falcons on Senior Night

By Ken Lay

A stifling defense propelled Gibbs High School into its fifth consecutive win. The Eagles forced visiting Fulton into five turnovers on their way to a 31-6 victory on a chilly Friday night at Ernest Whited Stadium in Corryton. Gibbs (7-1 overall, 4-1 in Region 2-4A) was opportunistic early. After being forced to punt on their first possession, the Eagles struggled on defense before Dallas Holt intercepted a pass from Fulton quarterback Jamil Smith, giving Gibbs the ball on its own 27-yard line. From there, the Eagles drove 73 yards to take the early lead as Keith Jones connected with Reid Daniel on a 45-yard scoring strike, making the score 6-0. Kicker Sawyer Henderson added the extra point to extend Gibbs' advantage to 7-0 with 3 minutes, 39 seconds remaining in the opening frame.

In the second quarter, the Eagles' Graham Atkins would recover a fumble by Fulton (3-5, 2-3), and Gibbs turned that miscue into points when Tucker Ownby scored on a 4-yard plunge midway through the stanza, making it 14-0. Fulton would pull to within 14-6 a short time later as Waco Upshaw had a 14-yard touchdown scamper. Gibbs missed a chance to extend its advantage as Henderson missed a field goal on the final play before halftime. Despite holding the upper hand, the Eagles were far from content with their effort over the first 24 minutes of the contest. "We had a bad mindset coming into the first half," Eagles' linebacker Memphis Wilson said. "Second half, we got talked to by our coaches and it just changed the way we played. We played more physical and we were more prepared." Gibbs coach Brad Turner

agreed. "We knew in the second half if we came out with a more physical theme, we would be in good shape," he said. The Eagles got the message as their defense kept the Falcons at bay and off the scoreboard in the second half. Turner commended his defense but noted that the game might have been closer had the Falcons not committed five turnovers and gone 0-for-3 on fourth down. "Our defense played a good game," Turner said. "They're a real physical team and (coach) Justin (Long) has done a good job over there, and they're playing well. "In these games, you never know. If they hadn't had five turnovers, who knows what would've happened?" Gibbs had the only three points in the third quarter as Henderson kicked a 34-yard field goal with 3:51 left in the frame.

Waylon Spierdowis helped the Eagles salt the game away in the fourth quarter with a pair of touchdown runs. The senior celebrated his senior night with scoring runs of 6 and 35 yards, respectively. Long said the turnovers led to his team's demise. "You can't come on the road and turn the ball over like we did tonight," he said. Gibbs will now have a short week as they travel to Maryville Thursday night for a showdown with Heritage. The Mountaineers, coached by former University of Tennessee assistant Joe Osovet, (3-5, 1-4) are coming off a 40-7 loss at Alcoa. Fulton, meanwhile, will host Union County Friday. The Patriots enter the contest with a 1-7 overall record. They're 0-7 in region play after last week's 63-30 loss at home to Anderson County.

A big fourth quarter lifts Central over Halls

Cont. from page 1

Bobcats led 19-10. In the third quarter, Red Devils' quarterback Lincoln Wilson eluded defenders to throw a 47-yard touchdown pass to Jarrell Chandler. Halls retook the lead 20-19 with 10:43 left in the third quarter. Special teams play contributed great field position for Halls many times. Central head coach Kevin Lane said, "We got to clean up some kickoff stuff, man, we've been better at it. We were rough at the beginning of the year. We've gotten better at it; we just continue to kinda leave our lanes. All credit to Halls. Brent and his staff do a great job. They stuck to their game plan on returns. We finally kicked one down there in the end zone, which changed it a little bit so we got that cleaned up.

I think the game's probably a little different, but, heck, it's the way it's played." In the fourth quarter, 43 points were scored, 30 by Central. The Bobcats took the lead for good on a 4-yard touchdown run by Lanier Badgett. An unsportsmanlike penalty on Central took the 2-point conversion try back to the 25-yard line. It didn't matter, as Long saw the middle open up and ran for the 2-point conversion and a 27-20 Central lead with 11:56 left in the fourth quarter. "I feel like it opened up like the Red Seas," Long said of the 2-point conversion. "I was trying to hit my man downfield. I had to evade pressure and get downfield and then go score and make a play." Halls took the ensuing kickoff 95 yards to the Central 5-yard line. One

play later, Cooper Blanton ran for a touchdown to cut the Bobcats' lead to one point. However, Halls would fumble the snap on the extra point to keep Central ahead 27-26. After a great Central kickoff return, Long ran for a 2-yard touchdown to make it 33-26 Central. Another unsportsmanlike penalty moved the ball back again to the 25-yard line. This time, Long threw it to Sackie for a 2-point conversion and a 35-26 lead with 7:29 left in the fourth quarter. Halls briefly cut it to two on backup quarterback Harrison Andriopoulos' touchdown pass with 6:23 left in the fourth quarter. Lincoln Wilson, the starting quarterback, had left the game with an injury. "He's still getting evaluated," Price said. "We're hoping it's minimal, but I'm not

really sure." Long added to his magic night on an 81-yard touchdown run to put Central up 42-33 with 5:59 left in the fourth quarter. Following a Halls fumble recovery, Halls was driving into Bobcats' territory when Tnaj Taylor intercepted an Andriopoulos' pass and ran it back 80 yards for a touchdown to make the final score 49-33 Central. "We made big plays," Lane said. "We were able to run the ball. We buckled down defensively. It's really exciting; it's really fun to win this game." Central, 7-1 and 4-1 in Region 2-5A, now holds second place in the region and plays at William Blount Friday. Halls, 3-5, 3-2 in Region 2-5A, hosts its Campbell County.

A GLANCE BACK AND A LOOK AHEAD

A-E rolls past Carter and waits for Meigs

By Steve Williams

If last week's big scoring game against Carter is any indication, the Austin-East Roadrunners may have a good chance to beat Meigs County in a very important Region 2-3A game. Coach Stanton Stevens' Roadrunners rolled past the Green Hornets 53-0. Ouch! Here's how the scoring went with the Class of 1986 state champions looking on at G.H. "Dusty" Leonard Stadium and Sam Anderson Field: Junior wide receiver Travis Burgins showed great effort as he shook off Carter players from the 20-yard line and dove over the goal line for the first touchdown of the game. Dieuveut Ishwme kicked the first of his PATs. A-E leads 7-0. Next came Dewyone Bean's and Jo'Mon Cody's TFL that left the Hornets with fourth down and almost a mile (but actually 32 yards) to go. Quarterback Landon Lightfoot then stepped into the spotlight with a 43-yard scoring run. A-E leads 14-0 at the end of the first quarter. Then linebacker Juelz Houston opened the second quarter by throwing in a man-size tackle that halted another Hornet in his tracks and left the runner buzzing. The Roadrunners then saw one of their running backs, Jucorius Towns, step in paydirt from five yards out and Ishiwme booted his third straight PAT for a 21-0 lead. Lightfoot followed that with a 25-yard pass to Burgins for his second six-pointer with under a minute to give Austin-East a 27-0 halftime command. Layden Middlebrook, a junior playmaker, was seeing so much fun he got into the act with a 43-yard touchdown run after intermission that lit up the scoreboard to 34-0. Middlebrook liked it so much he raced 60 yards on a punt return to make the score 41-0. Tysean Gillispie, a senior free safety, felt it was time to give the A-E defense some credit and the offense a break, so he intercepted a pass. But the versatile Middlebrook hurried back into the game and showed he could score a touchdown too as a running back. Carter couldn't stop him on his 8-yard run that upped the blowout to 47-0. Coach Stevens felt it was time to put Aaron Flowers in the game and he did great with a 4-yard touchdown run. It was late in the game and Ishiwie had been so busy he missed his PAT, which left the final score 53-0. The talented Middlebrook wanted to show his defensive talents and intercepted a pass at the A-E 16-yard line. He didn't want the Hornets to score either.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINERS

Meigs County at A-E
CAK at Boyd Buchanan
GCA at Lakeway Christian
Hardin Valley at Cleveland

2026 Prep Football WEEK TEN

Games kick off at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
Thursday, October 22
Gibbs at Heritage
Friday, October 23
CCS at Providence Christian
Catholic at CPA
Central at William Blount
S-D at Anderson Co. (7:30)
Meigs Co. at Austin-East
CAK at Boyd Buchanan
Webb at Chatt Christian
Hardin Valley at Cleveland
Bearden at Dobyns Bennett
West at Karns
Alcoa at Carter
Union Co. at Fulton
Campbell Co. at Halls
Grace at Lakeway Christian
Farragut at Oak Ridge
Clinton at Powell
Elizabethton at Seymour
Saturday, October 24
TSD at School for the Deaf, WA (4:00)

Week Nine Scores

TSD 48, SCS 22
CAK 31, Grace 27
Austin-East 53, Carter 0
Cleveland 42, Bearden 7
South-Doyle 33, Clinton 28
Cookeville 34, Farragut 0
Gibbs 31, Fulton 6
Hardin Valley 32, Oak Ridge 21
Jefferson Co. 21, Powell 19
TKA 45, Tri-Cities Christian 18
Central 49, Halls 33
Stewarts Creek 26, Webb 24
West 42, William Blount 20
Catholic 20, McCallie 14
CCS 41, South Greene 14

SONNY MOORE'S COMPUTER RATINGS

(Top 10 local teams through Oct. 12 games)
1-GCA 131.28 (9th in state)
2-Hardin Valley 123.12
3-Central 122.45
4-CAK 119.41
5-Catholic 118.63
6-Gibbs 116.32
7-Powell 114.93
8-Halls 108.30
9-Seymour 105.91
10-West 103.20

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PREPS OF THE PAST

Oct. 21, 2006

Webb made a last-minute goal line stand and held on for a 31-30 victory over visiting Austin-East to win No. 300 in school history. The Spartans drove 79 yards and Blake Beeler scored on a 1-yard QB sneak and Brandt Campbell converted a 2-point run to make it 31-24 with six minutes left. A-E still had time. Ashford Johnson scored on a 50-yard TD run. The 2-point conversion failed. Demarcus Lowery recovered an onside kick at Webb's 32. A-E drove to the 1-yard line. Webb's Stephen Thompson stopped A-E to preserve the win.

unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within two (2) years after the date of this publication.

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