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Rep. Dave Wright earns NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award

The Tennessee office of NFIB, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, recently presented its coveted Guardian of Small Business award to state Rep. Dave Wright (District 19, part of Knox County).



State Representative Dave Wright

"Dave Wright has been a steadfast supporter of small business since becoming a member of the Tennessee General Assembly in 2019," NFIB State Director Jim Brown said. "Our members appreciate Rep. Wright's efforts on behalf of small business owners in our state, including his support for meaningful tax, labor, tort, and regulatory reforms. These policies help small business owners do more of what they do best: grow their businesses, create jobs and help their communities. His 100 percent NFIB Voting Record in 2025-2026 demonstrates his unwavering support for small business."

NFIB Member Bo Carey, who owns Greer's Home Furnishings in Loudon, presented the award to Wright in Gatlinburg at NFIB Tennessee's Leadership Council meeting. The Guardian of Small Business award is the most prestigious honor that NFIB bestows on legislators in recognition of their efforts to support small business. The NFIB Tennessee Leadership Council, an advisory board comprised of NFIB members, voted to present the award to Wright for his outstanding leadership on small business issues.

Wright said, "It's a great honor to be recognized with the NFIB Guardian of Small Business award. Supporting small businesses has been a priority of mine in Nashville, and I'm looking forward to returning to the 115th General Assembly to continue supporting them with good policies."

Wright is the current Vice Chair of the State & Local Government Committee and serves on several subcommittees and committees, including Transportation.



PHOTO BY KEN LAY.

Eight aspiring educators were awarded scholarships by the Knox County Retired Teachers Association at the organization's annual awards ceremony and luncheon Thursday afternoon in West Knoxville.

Aspiring educators receive scholarships from retired teachers

By Ken Lay

Eight aspiring educators received financial assistance Thursday at the annual Knox County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Luncheon at Rothchild Conference Center.

Each of the eight recipients received a $3,000 scholarship to offset expenses incurred while fulfilling a student teaching requirement. The honorees attend Bryan College, The University of Tennessee, Johnson University, Carson-Newman and Maryville College.

The recipients were chosen from a field of 56 nominees from 10 schools.

Francesca G. Avila was awarded the Tom Underwood Scholarship. The Reuben and Pat Hunter Scholarship went to Jennifer Bella Wilson, who will soon become the first special education teacher to graduate from Bryan College.

Abby Lee Dennison was awarded the Colleen Bennett Scholarship. The Bill Crosland Scholarship went to Eliezer David Castaneda.

The Cindi Fuller Schowalter Scholarship was awarded to Rebecca Ann Shorrosh, while Elizabeth Purulla won the Shirley Underwood Scholarship. The Sandy Sincerbox Scholarship was awarded to Jaycie M. Jakes. Haley N. Mitchell received the Valerie Biberdorf Scholarship.

Concord Marina lease renewal questioned

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The 500-acre lakeside Concord Park in West Knoxville is popular with the public, highlighted by the Concord Marina and Lakeside Tavern Restaurant. For the past 25 years, Knox County has been leasing the marina and site of the restaurant to Go Outdoors Concord LLC and Lake Partners LLC.

That lease renewal was on the Knox County Commission's agenda last week, but District 8 Commissioner Adam Thompson pulled it and questioned the renewal. The proposed lease, in the resolution proposed by Parks and Recreation, is for a new 10-year period with a renewal option.

Thompson said the renewal agreement needs a "written explanation" and that the market value of the county-leased facilities needs to be found. He suggested the matter be postponed until the mayor and administration come back with a report.

District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox called Thompson's concern "a good catch" and asked about the rent there and mortgage payment to the county. Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers said he

Continue on page 2

Commission committee suggests rule changes

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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The Knox County Commission's Rules Committee met Monday afternoon in Room 640 of the City-County Building and voted on several changes to the full commission's rules. District 9 Commissioner Andy Fox, who is not a member of the committee, sat in on the meeting to make a rule change suggestion.

Fox suggested changing the rules governing how commissioners may respond to public forum comments. Occasionally, those comments are directly pointed at commissioners, although the speakers are supposed to address the chair and the full commission. Sometimes personal attacks are directed at Fox and others from speakers at the podium, and the current rule regulates how a commissioner may respond.

He called the current rules "restrictions" and said that dialog should not be forbidden.

Deputy Law Director Mike Moyers responded to a question from District 4 Commissioner Shane Jackson that, if passed, the Fox idea would go to the full commission as a recommendation because it contains "new language."

Jackson said commissioners in public forum have sometimes "been called names and we sit there and take it." He suggested that commissioners "don't get into a back and forth debate."

"We need to have,

Continue on page 3

KCDC's The Overlook at Beaumont earns award for new architecture

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation's The Overlook at Beaumont, the first new housing development of the Transforming Western initiative, has earned a 2026 Orchids Award from Keep Knoxville Beautiful.

The Overlook at Beaumont, which earned the award in the category of new architecture, is part of the Transforming Western initiative, a holistic approach to revitalize the neighborhoods of Western Heights and Beaumont. The redevelopment is planned over several phases, with final completion anticipated by 2029. When complete, Transforming Western will deliver a total of 479 newly constructed residential units plus resident and community education resources and recreation amenities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KNOXVILLE'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Keep Knoxville Beautiful Board Chair Brandon Huckaby, far left, and Executive Director Lizzie Gaver, far right, present a 2026 Orchids Award in the category of new architecture for The Overlook at Beaumont to Knoxville's Community Development Corporation representatives, from left, Caleb Dyer, Terri Stanley, Ben Bentley, Brad Richmond, Sabrina Draplin and Marisa Moazen.

"The Orchid Awards celebrate places that have enhanced the local landscape, and we appreciate recognition of the team's work by Keep Knoxville Beautiful," KCDC Executive Director and CEO Ben Bentley said. "As the first completed residential phase of the Transforming Western redevelopment, The Overlook serves as a visible symbol of reinvestment and neighborhood renewal."

A prominent hillside site became a residential community that reflects both the natural setting and the future vision for the neighborhood. The architecture features clean, contemporary design, modern materials, spacious floor plans,

Continued on page 4

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Thank You, Knox County, for Honoring Sheriff Tom Spangler

By Kimberly Glenn



The Knox County Commission honored the late Sheriff Tom Spangler. Chairwoman Terry Hill introduced his two daughters, Mellony and Mallory, and said Spangler was a "proud papaw." She noted his many years of service, his enduring legacy, and said, "His watch is now complete." Kimberly Glenn, Spangler's Communications Director during his two terms, described the late leader as humble.

On Nov. 16, all 11 members of the Knox County Commission voted to honor the life and legacy of Sheriff Tom Spangler. On behalf of Mellony Kent, Mallory Womble, the entire Spangler family, and myself, I want to offer a special thank-you to Madam Chair Hill for moving to adopt the resolution. Thank you to every member of the commission for voting in support and for presenting the resolution to Tom's family. It meant a great deal to see the county Tom loved pause to remember him.

Charles Thomas "Tom" Spangler grew up in the Carter community and graduated from Carter High School in 1976. He followed in his father's footsteps by serving in the United States Air Force. After completing his military service in 1980, he joined the Knox County Sheriff's Office as a corrections officer. Over a lifelong career with the agency, he rose through virtually every rank, became chief deputy, and was elected sheriff. He served two consecutive terms, from September 2018 to September 2026.

Many who worked with him knew him as "Spanky." He helped establish the Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit, earned his wings as both a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot, and graduated from the FBI National Academy. Between his military service and his years in law enforcement, Tom devoted more than four decades to serving his country and the people of East Tennessee.

I had the privilege of working alongside Tom for eight years as his communications director and agency spokesperson. In that role, I saw his steady leadership on some of the hardest days our agency faced. When one of our own was hurt, or a family was grieving, Tom cared deeply about what they were going through. I will always be grateful I had the opportunity to serve with him and see firsthand how much his deputies and this community meant to him.

The resolution also remembered the man his family knew and loved. Tom was a devoted husband to Linda, his wife of nearly 30 years, a loving father to Mellony and Mallory, and a proud "Pawpaw" to five grandchildren. He is also lovingly remembered by his siblings Bruce, Patty, Bobby, Susan, and Kristie, and by many friends. His Christian faith and humility guided him throughout his life and through his battle with cancer.

Mellony, Mallory, Linda, and the entire Spangler family, thank you for sharing Tom with Knox County. Public service asks a great deal of the people who wear the badge, and it asks a great deal of the families who love them. You gave up time together so he could answer calls that couldn't wait. I hope this recognition reminds you how deeply this community appreciates what you gave, too.

One line in the resolution has stayed with me. It honors Tom as "a true public servant whose watch is now complete." Those words are hard to read when you still miss him. I'm grateful the commission made them part of Knox County's public record, so that years from now, someone reading about Sheriff Tom Spangler will know how much his service meant to the people who call this county home.

Concord Marina lease renewal questioned

Continued from page 1

hasn't looked at the lease.

Thompson said the current lease agreement has no guarantee of renewal. The new agreement would begin at the end of December.

Darby Campbell, owner and president at Sun Life Marinas and chairman of Safe Harbor Development LLC, represented Concord Park Marina and Lakeside Tavern. He said his company put $1 million into the improvements and that both are a "growing concern." He said that if the lease isn't renewed, the county would need to buy the facilities back for $70 to $80 million.

"It was a raw piece of land," Campbell told the commission.

The need for road improvements at the entrance to the park was discussed, and Campbell said that, if renewed, they would "pitch in" to help finance the project.

Fourth District Commissioner Shane Jackson called on the law department for an opinion and to see if there was a legal option or a county liability involved.

Chairwoman Terry Hill said they need "the mayor's office here."

There was a motion for a 60-day delay, but given the December 31 deadline, Fox and Jackson settled on a 30-day postponement, hoping for a report from the mayor and the law department.

The commission also selected a new member for the Board of Zoning Appeals following the dismissal of Alex Moody last month. Commissioner Angela Russell nominated Bill Sofield to the District 9 slot while Commissioner Damon Rawls nominated Paul Huff.

Commissioners Barry Beeler, Justin Cofer, Fox and Russell voted for Sofield, and the other seven commissioners voted for Huff, who was chosen to fill the vacant seat in the 7-4 vote.

The commission also passed, in a 10-1 vote, the second and final reading on a resolution to change the Knox County Code to limit any pay increase for county commissioners to the percentage increase set by the state for county officials.

District 8's Adam Thompson objected to the passage due to another resolution proposing to link county employee pay increases to the state percentage. Commissioner Brandon Huckaby of the Third District cosponsored both resolutions and said the two are similar but not the same.

Commissioner Russell said she supported the limit on commissioner pay increases because it shows transparency and no conflicts of interest.

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Publisher's Position

Republicans Have A Lot Of Work To Do By 2028



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Just about every talking head on television, TikTok, and innumerable podcasts has opined about the recent midterm elections. It seems to me it was a kick in the pants to tell President Trump and the Republican Congress that there were many promises not kept. The great majority of Americans have little respect for politicians and zero affection. When Donald Trump started his 2016 campaign by promising to drain the swamp, it resonated with a great many Americans, many of whom had not come out to vote previously. Trump delivered a message in blunt terms that was easy to understand. Joe Biden's presidency was a debacle, with the aid of a complicit media that abetted the Biden administration and tried its best to cover for the president's rapidly deteriorating mental state. The reckless spending drove record-high inflation even higher still, and millions pouring over an open border caused a serious spike in rents and housing costs. Trump was elected once again and proved the lie that the border could only be closed if Congress passed this law or that. To be fair, the border has not been so secure in many years, and the influx of unvetted people crossing over the border has stopped.

It was Trump who put voice to what was in the minds of many Americans who detested the "forever wars" that we seemed to get mired in; it was reinforced by the disastrous retreat from Afghanistan by the inept Biden.

As the cost of living increased, many Americans were squeezed harder, and while a great majority of Americans acknowledge they don't want Iran to have a nuclear weapon, the president never really articulated a policy for ending the war. The lack of vision and communication was upsetting to most Americans. President Trump saying every week we are close to a deal became hollow after a few weeks. The war obviously caused the price of diesel fuel to skyrocket, and it was a reminder of just how much virtually every aspect of our economy is touched by that cost. Just about every form of transportation of goods and products is carried out through the use of diesel fuel. We should remember that when the socialists renew their war on fossil fuels and talk about the Green New Deal. If they had their way, almost nothing would be affordable.

Trump has had some big successes and done some terrific things, and many Americans will discover the tax cuts did not go to the billionaire class when the middle class is taxed to pay for the socialist agenda.

Admittedly, some of the deportation activities could have been handled better, but many of the serial rapists, child sex predators, and murderers who kept coming back into the country during the open-door policies have been removed from our country. Only an idiot would believe every person who wants to come here without any kind of vetting is an escapee from a monastery or a nunnery. One thing the Left has never managed to explain is this - if our country is so god-awful terrible, why is everybody doing all they can to come here?

The Trump administration should have done more with DOGE and explained just how much of our tax dollars have been thrown away through the leftist NGOs and nonprofits which have made millionaires out of fraudsters who cloak themselves in self-righteousness in supposedly providing a service.

Voters don't trust politicians, and they don't believe them most of the time. And when the voters get tired and fed up, they vote blindly for the other party. People certainly do not appreciate rising costs, especially when it seems like government officials are making out like bandits - from Nancy Pelosi's remarkable ability to pick rising stocks to the absurd approval of Kimberly Guilfoyle as ambassador to Greece, which seemed to be more of a consolation prize when Don Jr. found a new girlfriend. The stories about a Russian oligarch paying for Don Jr.'s wedding are not much different in truth from Hunter Biden and Uncle Jim's influence peddling. The American people rightly resent corruption and, according to the polls, that was one of the chief issues motivating voters during the midterm elections.

If Republicans are to recover from this election, they need to acknowledge that they received the message loud and clear from the voters. They need to work to reclaim some credibility with the coalition forged in 2024. Republicans need to do the job they were elected to do. Performative politics might suit a certain group of voters, but it doesn't get anything done. Voters have indicated they want more results and far fewer performances. That same performative politics has trickled down from the White House to the courthouse, and both political parties have scores of practitioners in the art of performance while doing no heavy lifting at all.

Our country is facing great challenges that need solutions. The best policy in politics is to always do a good job.

Mayor asks council for $70M in bonds for two city centers

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon will ask the city council Tuesday to approve issuing bonds for renovations and repairs to the Civic Auditorium and Coliseum and the Convention Center.

Kincannon took to the air last week to announce the project, noting the facilities badly need updating. The resolution from the Finance Department calls for borrowing $70 million in General Obligation Bonds.

The Knoxville Finance Department is also asking for approval to issue $19 million in Water System Revenue Bonds and $12 million in Wastewater System Revenue Bonds.

Bridge inspection and structural analysis for Knoxville Area Transit is the goal of a possible agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for $93,830. Capitol Strategy Group LLC may get a $72,000 agreement to provide governmental relations services for the city, and Cornerstone Government Affairs Inc. may be awarded a $180,000 agreement for their governmental relations work for the city.

Tennessee Home Solutions may be approved to replace two HVAC units at the South Knoxville Community Center on Maryville Pike for $99,321.

Two council members, At-large Councilwoman Amelia Parker and District 8's Denzel Grant, have an ordinance to amend the City Code called the "Severe Weather Shelter and Services Mandate." The agenda item aims to mandate shelter availability whenever forecasted temperatures or wind chill fall below 32 degrees or when the heat index goes above 90 degrees.

The police department has two agenda items, one to apply for $4,000,000 from the U. S. Justice Department to address driving factors linked to domestic violence. The second resolution is to accept $300,000 with no local match from the Justice Department for developing and maintaining an effective response to cybercrimes involving children.

Several appointments are on the docket, including to the Tree Board, Transit Authority, Industrial Development Board, KUB and City Pension Board.

R. Bentley Marlow is appealing a Board of Zoning Appeals decision about design standards and a variance at 519 Douglas Avenue.

Four lots on Nash Road may be rezoned from general industrial to RN-2 single-family homes. Two lots on Clinch Avenue may be rezoned from RN-5, general residential neighborhood, to RN-6, multi-family. Two tracts on East Moody may go from RN-1 to RN-3 general residential.

A Rudy Street property is on the agenda to switch from industrial mixed-use to general commercial.

Commission committee rule changes

Continued from page 1

somewhere in the meeting, a discussion on what happened during the meeting."

Fox then asked for agreement but failed to get a second, so his idea will not appear on the Rules Committee recommendations to the full body.

Committee Chairwoman and District 5 Commissioner Angela Russell told Fox that, if it fails, he can "still bring it up" during a commission meeting.

In other action, the Rules Committee discussed recommending changes to better streamline the commission meetings, including lumping the "non-controversial" agenda items together early in the meetings. Earlier presentations and honors, Jackson said, would allow audience members who came for those items to leave earlier.

The committee also talked about limiting speakers to the topics on the agenda when those items come up and saving the public forum for non-agenda items. Attorney Moyers said, "I don't know if I'd change that; leave it the same."

District Two's Courtney Durrett's idea to dissolve the Telecom Committee was approved and passed on to the full commission. Durrett said a commissioner already serves on the Knoxville Community Media board and the Telecom Committee hasn't met in two years.

The meeting ran over its time limit and ended with several items to be picked back up at the next meeting, including a review of the rules process, submission requirements on presentations and honors, and a recommendation to limit the number of presentations during a meeting.

Thanksgiving comes once in a year, but may the feeling of gratitude live in our hearts all year round.
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KCDC's The Overlook at Beaumont earns award

Cont. from page 1

balconies with sweeping views and a community building with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking downtown Knoxville and the Smoky Mountains.

The 76-unit mixed-income residential community offers one- to five-bedroom apartments and serves as the new gateway to the reimagined neighborhood. The four walk-up residential buildings and centrally located community building create a cohesive, pedestrian-friendly environment and serve as a visible symbol of reinvestment and neighborhood renewal.

Architecture for The Overlook at Beaumont was provided by Smith Gee Studio of Nashville; Jenkins & Stiles was general contractor; Richman Group is equity partner; and lender is J.P. Morgan Community Development Banking. Blackburn Development Group served as owner's representative. An official ribbon cutting for The Overlook at Beaumont was held in early January 2026.

The overall redevelopment will serve as a catalyst for Transforming Western, which is revitalizing the neighborhood in part through a $40 million HUD Choice Neighborhoods Grant awarded in 2022.

Since 1979, Keep Knoxville Beautiful has presented Orchids Beautification Awards to Knoxville and Knox County buildings, public art and outdoor spaces that beautify and elevate the local landscape. In addition to traditional categories such as New Architecture, Redesign/Reuse, Outdoor Space and Public Art, Keep Knoxville Beautiful highlights the accomplishments and sustainable efforts of valuable volunteers, community partners and green organizations and businesses.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful previously presented Orchids Awards to KCDC housing communities including First Creek at Austin Phase 1 (2023), Five Points Phase 3 (2021), Five Points Phase 1 (2019), Five Points Revitalization/Infill Housing (2014) and The Residences at Eastport (2012).

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Corryton Christmas Lights Contest to benefit local food pantry

Friday, December 4, is the deadline to enter the Corryton Christmas Light Contest and Tour, sponsored by the Corryton Community Club. The contest winners will be announced at the Corryton Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 12. Each resident from the 37721 zip code who enters the contest will be placed on the Corryton Holiday Light Road Map for people to view nightly from 6 to 9 p.m., December 12 – January 3.

Each $10 entry fee will go to the Corryton Hospitality Food Pantry (CHFP), which has been helping families since 1996.

The CHFP is housed on Corryton Road at Rutherford Memorial United Methodist Church and provides up to 350 families, or 700-900 individuals, with basic food items including canned goods, boxed foods, frozen meat products and fresh produce.

This food is sourced from Second Harvest and from local businesses and local farms. Costs for these resources run about $5,000 per month. This figure has nearly doubled in the last year as food costs have soared. The pantry is 100% volunteer-run, supported by local church congregations, school groups, school sports teams and other community organizations.

Every donation goes directly toward purchasing food, with no administrative costs and no overhead. The pantry's focus is on serving the underserved families in our area.

The mission is to provide hope and food security to those in need.

You can help by supporting fundraising events, by making direct donations to the pantry or Second Harvest, and by volunteering at food distributions. For questions about the Corryton Hospitality Food Pantry or for information on volunteering, contact Pam Richardson by email at chester463@aol.com.

For more information on the Christmas Light Contest and Tour, please visit www.corrytoncc.com/event, email christmas@corrytoncc.com, or call 865-240-0140.



Ijams Nature Center staff joined Grayson Subaru Marketing Manager Dan Moyers during the presentation of a new branded 2026 Subaru Outback to Ijams

Grayson Subaru presents branded 2026 Subaru Outback to Ijams Nature Center

Grayson Subaru recently presented Ijams Nature Center with a new 2026 Subaru Outback for outreach programs, animal transport, and general business.

The car's wrapped design, created by AZ Rag Installation & Print Services, depicts some of the animals and activities at the nonprofit nature center. Ijams will use the vehicle for the next three years. Grayson Subaru has provided Ijams with a branded Outback since 2019.

From left, Ijams Nature Center staff Melanie Thomas, Thomas Geissberger, Autumn Allman, Sarah Brobst, Ray Griffin, Savannah Blackman, Madison Watson, Austin Preston, and Brandy Cox joined Grayson Subaru Marketing Manager Dan Moyers to celebrate the new addition to Ijams.

"Ijams and Subaru both believe that nature is something to enjoy and protect," Moyers said. "This car is a wonderful reminder to get outside and explore, and Grayson Subaru is proud to partner with Ijams to connect people to the great outdoors."

GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS

Help grandfamilies this holiday season

Grandparents As Parents gift drive accepting donations

Since it began in 2000, the Knoxville-Knox County Grandparents as Parents Program has provided support, information, and referrals to community resources for grandparents raising their grandchildren and other relative caregivers. There is no age or income requirement to join the free program.

You can support grandfamilies through the holidays by donating new or gently loved items from the list below:

- board games/cards for family game nights
- puzzles
- books
- craft kits
- coloring books, crayons and colored pencils
- new toiletries
- gift cards

Please, no toys.

GAP also needs new rolls of gift-wrapping paper, tape, gift bags, and tissue paper.

Donations may be dropped off at the CAC Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue in Knoxville, 37921. Call the Grandparents as Parents program to schedule a contactless drop off.

Donations will be accepted through December 1.

To learn more about the Grandparents as Parents Program, visit knoxseniors.org/grandparents

Memories of an old journalist

Remembering Letterpress Newspapers

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

I've been a reporter for many, many years. I began in 1968 as a Coast Guard journalist and, later that year, had an independent news story published in an Alexandria, Virginia, newspaper. Back then, that company was a "letterpress" newspaper, meaning all the printing was done from inked metal reversed letters that, when a paper was pressed over them, presented correct and readable text.

Times were different back then, and most things were mechanical. I worked for the newspaper in my off hours now and then, covering public meetings and writing features. The stories I wrote at work were sent around the nation and dealt mostly with boating safety and Coast Guard administration changes at our Washington, D. C., headquarters.

Many of the papers I worked for after that were also letterpress and I didn't see any other type of newspaper publishing until I was job searching in California, and the newspaper where I inquired was "offset" and not letterpress. I wasn't ready for that change back then and spent a couple of years out of the business.

Eventually I got some hands-on experience in preparing an offset newspaper. The term refers to a printed or typed page or image that is created from inked rubber rollers rather than the raised metal letters. Preparing for offset printing is very different than preparing for a letterpress print.

For many years, my wife and I ran a newspaper in my hometown, serving the area along the

Continue on page 6



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Older but Thankful



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Thanksgiving arrived before I was ready for it. Yes, I know that the holiday occurs at the same time each year, but for some reason, this year flew by too quickly. Is that speed of time something that increases with age? At any rate, having a special time to count our blessings and give thanks is a good thing.

The year 2026 has been a rough one. Somehow, someway, time decided to kick me in the backside. I've been dealing with too many problems for my liking. At the beginning of the year, I had cataract surgery on both eyes. I chose the new lenses that require me to wear glasses when reading, but my sight is wonderful, a big improvement over not being able to read road signs and billboards. The problem is that my "baby blues" are bloodshot most of the time. I feel as if I have sand in my eyes. The doctor inserted pieces to block one set of tear ducts, but the problem still lingers. Still, I'm thankful for having my sight to look upon my family and friends, and the world.

These days, I can't walk up a short hill without having to stop. The pain in my backside, hips and upper legs halts me from going far. Numbness in my right toes is ever-present. This new condition, combined with a severe case of restless leg syndrome that I have had for 30 years, causes me to spend too much time on the couch instead of working in the yard or working on wood projects. I'm not happy about all of this, but at least I can still go for a while on my own two legs. No canes or walkers are needed. That's a wonderful blessing.

I had to wear a heart monitor last month, and it indicated that my heart had stopped beating on four occasions. Three of them were while I was asleep, but the longest one (4 seconds) happened on a Sunday morning. It laid me low, and I slept in the recliner for some time. Now I have to complete a sleep study. I went through the study the first time several years ago. The doctor said I suffered from sleep apnea, and a second night in his facility was to check how I did with a CPAP machine. Well, I'm claustrophobic, and the mask that I had on made me feel as if I were suffocating. The doctor gave me a valium to calm my nerves, but it did nothing. I still spent the night there because they had given me the pill. I cannot do the CPAP thing, but I am hoping that the study will record the RLS with which I contend and will offer some solutions. Anyway, I'm thankful for a wife who puts up with my kicking while asleep and for the dogs that lie with me just to be nearby.

For the most part, I'm thankful for my life, even the things about which I am complaining.

The Good Lord has given me a good time on this planet, and He has blessed me with a wonderful wife, daughter, son, brother and sisters-in-law.

I also am thankful for the friends who have been in my life. Some are new, but some have been around since we were teenagers.

I am also thankful that I was born in this country. Nowhere else would life have been this good. Right now, we have a mess, but I think things can and will be better. We must all pull together to make this democracy continue to work, and we must return to being the beacon toward which the rest of the world looks for an example of what can be good in this life.

Happy Thanksgiving. I hope you count your blessings and hug the ones you love.

Warm Thanksgiving wishes for you and your family from all of us at Realty Executives

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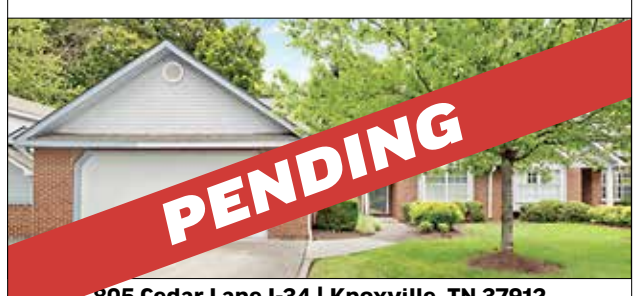
This quiet neighborhood is less than a mile to the interstate, shopping and restaurants. This one-level condo has been remodeled in the past 7 years with new HVAC, Kitchen including new cabinets, countertops, backsplash, Huge Living Room with vaulted ceiling, Split Bedrooms.



805 Cedar Lane I-34 | Knoxville, TN 37912
$329,000 | 3 beds | 1,677 SF | MLS#1347760

Happy Thanksgiving!
Angie Gibson
(865) 898-4558 Cell
(865) 688-3232 Office
angie2sell@comcast.net





Happy Thanksgiving!
Cathern King
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The Gentleman From Maryland
Ovington E. Weller

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com



NEA PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

A dapper US Senator Ovington E. Weller of Maryland in 1923.

Ovington Eugene Weller is barely remembered today, but during his time he was a power in his own state of Maryland. Bespectacled and balding, O. E. Weller looked more like a meek accountant than a political boss, yet for a number of years he was the most important voice in Republican politics in the Free State. By the time he died, he was affectionately known as "Old Man Weller" by both Democrats and Republicans. The Baltimore Evening Sun attested to Weller's political skill when the boss died. "He played so well, indeed, that his name became a synonym for excellence in those arts which keep a faction on top and a leader in a position of influence or command." Weller was pleasant, genial and, upon occasion, "a bit salty," and possessed a sardonic sense of humor. Oftentimes reserved with a "decorous exterior," O. E. Weller remained acutely aware of his own success and was grateful for it.

An admitted "country boy" who managed to win an appointment to the Naval Academy, earn a law degree and eventually become a very successful banker, Ovington E. Weller made his mark on both the business and political worlds. Weller's was one of many American success stories. One newspaper, which had never been friendly to Weller, acknowledged, "He was not one of those self-made men who worshipped their own creators." That same newspaper attributed to Weller "superior gifts of concentration and analysis," being "far superior in these respects to most of the men with whom he competed." Senator Weller was also a formidable organizer, which gave him "a mastery of alignment and of detail that no other leader in either party equaled." Weller's mind was exceptionally systematic, although he tended to put everything else to one side when he contended with an issue. In time, Ovington E. Weller headed a political machine to be reckoned with in Maryland.

Weller was a sentimental man, yet one capable of firm friendship and fierce hostilities for those who had disappointed him. Perhaps his rigidity in his beliefs and being unbending in his principles was as much his greatest flaw as it was his chief characteristic as a person.

An oddity in the law made Ovington E. Weller one of the very few men to graduate from the Naval Academy twice. A law had been passed by Congress which voided many of the commissions awarded by the Naval Academy. The law was designed to winnow out a large surplus of Naval officers which had occurred during the Civil War. The law stated no academy graduate could be commissioned until there was a vacancy. "The law was all right but it was retroactive for six years," Weller recalled years later. "That was unfair."

Weller worked in the Department of the Post Office in Washington, D.C., while studying law at night and eventually graduated at the head of his class. In 1888, Weller married Elizabeth Bailey and found times to be quite hard. "I was just married and broke," Weller remembered.

Weller borrowed $800 from his friend and former Naval Academy classmate John W. Weeks, who would later serve as a United States senator from Massachusetts and Secretary of War. With the borrowed money, Weller and his wife headed West, stopping in Wichita, Kansas, where he began a law partnership and his practice. While Weller referred to his time out West as "the most stimulating" time of his life, it was also disappointing. O. E. Weller headed back to the East, where he joined the banking firm of Hornblower and Weeks, headed by his one-time classmate and friend, in Boston. Shortly thereafter, Weller opened the New York City office of Hornblower and Weeks at 10 Wall Street. It became one of the largest offices in the country, and Weller remained with it until his health began to fail. Having accumulated a "modest fortune" in that time, Weller and Elizabeth went on a trip around the world hoping to restore his health. Upon their return to the country, they settled in Reisterstown, Maryland, in a frame cottage that had belonged to Weller's grandparents.

Weller's life in politics began on the bottom rung of the political ladder. "I started at the very bottom of the barrel," Weller was fond of saying. "I was broken in by the postmaster, about the only Republican in the place. The next thing I knew I was on the county committee."

Weller liked to tell listeners that he "perhaps unconsciously had been harboring the 'political microbe.'" Until the end of his life, O. E. Weller described politics as the "deadliest of microbes." "If it once gets into the system, there is nothing that could ever get it out," Weller warned.

Ovington Weller tied his political fortunes to those of Robert Garrett, who twice ran, unsuccessfully, for Congress. Wags later said that while Weller had hitched his wagon to Garrett, while the star never ascended, the wagon most surely had. O. E. Weller staunchly backed the candidacy of Phillips Lee Goldsborough to be elected governor in 1911 and was as delighted as anyone when the GOP candidate was successful. It was Governor Goldsborough who appointed Weller to head Maryland's State Road Commission.

Yet Weller was also a man of principle who knew when and where to draw the line. When he headed Maryland's State Roads Commission, he refused to countenance any hiring on the basis of politics, choosing employees solely on ability. Even those newspapers known for supporting the Democratic Party acknowledged that O. E. Weller had been one of the best administrators in the history of the Road Commission.

Governor Phillips Lee Goldsborough named Weller to head the Maryland Road Commission in 1912 just as more and more people were buying automobiles. Road building was becoming more necessary as people were transitioning from horse-drawn carriages and wagons to motorized vehicles. Weller presided over the expenditure of $16 million, a princely sum for the time, in building roads in the Free State. As the administrator of the State Roads Commission, O. E. Weller insisted upon efficiency, and even the most partisan of Democrats had to admit he had done a very good job.

Ovington E. Weller became the Republican nominee for governor in 1915 to succeed Phillips Lee Goldsborough. Democrats enjoyed a significant advantage in statewide elections as Maryland, like most border states, was largely Democratic in its politics. Since 1777, Maryland has had only ten GOP governors. Weller ran a good race, although he fell short, losing by 3,181 votes to State Comptroller Emerson Harrington.

Weller backed the candidacy of attorney Harry W. Nice as the GOP candidate for governor in 1919. Nice ran a strong campaign and only barely lost to Albert C. Ritchie through what many suspected was voter fraud.

Weller also had either the acute sense of timing or good luck to decide to campaign for a seat in the United States Senate in 1920. Initially, virtually nobody gave Weller much of a chance to defeat incumbent John Walter Smith, long one of the most formidable vote-getters in Maryland's history. Smith had served in the Maryland State Senate before being elected to the US House of Representatives and had been in office for less than a year before his party nominated him to run for governor. John Walter Smith faced incumbent governor Lloyd Lowndes, a Republican. After two unsuccessful tries for a seat in the United States Senate, Smith was elected in 1908 and reelected in 1914.

The year 1920 proved to be a banner year for Republican candidates across the nation, with GOP presidential nominee Warren G. Harding winning just over 60% of the ballots cast while Democratic nominee James Cox won barely 34%. Harding also carried Maryland, and Ovington Weller upset Senator John Walter Smith, winning by 15,799 votes, which was a plurality as four minor candidates polled roughly 10% of the vote. Maryland was one of ten Senate seats picked up by the Republicans in the 1920 election.

Throughout the decade of the 1920s, Republicans held both houses of Congress as well as the White House. When President Harding died unexpectedly while traveling on the West Coast, Vice President Calvin Coolidge succeeded him. Coolidge was elected in his own right in 1924 and was followed by Herbert Hoover in 1928.

Senator Weller proved to be a largely reliable vote for the GOP program inside the US Senate while tending to the federal patronage in Maryland. Weller's GOP colleague, Dr. Joseph I. France, lost his reelection bid in 1922, giving the senior senator full control of all federal patronage for the Free State save for that meted out to the GOP congressmen.

Weller named one of the first women to occupy a role as the chief of staff of a United States senator. Ethel Einstein had worked in and around Republican headquarters in Maryland and had caught the notice of O. E. Weller during his campaign for the US Senate in 1920. In short order, Miss Einstein was named "secretary" to the senator and presided over the "eight to ten stenographers and typists" employed by Weller. One of the wonders of Senator Weller's office operation was "an electronically driven typewriting machine." Coming from the nearby state of Maryland, Senator Weller's correspondence was such that he had to pay out of his own pocket for additional typists. Miss Einstein claimed that she had been informed Weller received more mail than any other senator, save for Charles Curtis of Kansas. At the time Miss Einstein first began working for Weller, only eight US senators employed women as their top assistants. By 1926, 18 senators employed women as their chiefs of staff, including Tennessee's Kenneth McKellar.

Dominating his own party in Maryland was not popular with other Republicans in the Free State, and the senator drew a challenger inside the GOP primary in Congressman John Phillip Hill. The primary was close, with Weller winning 52% of the vote. Wounded and running in the midterm elections, Weller was defeated by Congressman Millard Tydings decisively. Tydings won roughly 58% to Weller's 42% of the ballots cast.

In 1932, O. E. Weller was elected Maryland's Republican National Committeeman, a post to which he was reelected in 1936 and 1940, finally retiring in 1944. Mrs. Weller died in 1934, and the couple's son, Felton, lived in Pennsylvania. The former senator traveled quite a lot during his last years.

In 1934, Weller backed Harry W. Nice once again for the GOP nomination for governor even though US Senator Phillips Lee Goldsborough had entered the primary. The machine headed by Weller helped to deliver a comfortable victory to Nice, who proceeded to derail the candidacy of Albert C. Ritchie, who many Marylanders thought would be governor for life. Governor Nice appointed Weller to head Maryland's Public Service Commission in 1935. Weller's term on the Public Service Commission did not end until 1941, and he refused to resign as Republican National Committeeman while he served on the PSC.

In his eighties, the former senator got on a trolley car in Baltimore during a heavy snow and promptly stepped on the toes of a lady. Weller apologized profusely, bowing his head only to have the melting snow accumulated on the brim of his hat slosh all over the astonished woman's face.

In 1945, on the eve of Maryland Republicans gathering in state convention, the former senator announced he was withdrawing from active participation in politics, saying, "I've had the bug in me too long." Weller was careful to say that he would always remain interested in politics.

When Ovington E. Weller died at Johns Hopkins Hospital on January 5, 1947, at the age of 84, the political boss was remembered as a man who had no hobbies save for politics. The Baltimore Evening Sun editorialized that Weller played politics "with a seriousness and skill that have rarely been equaled in the Republican party in this State." Almost until the end, Ovington Weller had remained a figure of importance in Maryland.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

FORECLOSURE NOTICES

KNOX COUNTY CHANCERY COURT SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY

ELIZABETH JOY ALLEN, Petitioner
v.
LUKE McCORMICK MORRISH, Respondent
No. 212827-2

LOCATION: SITUATED in District No. Six (6) of Knox County, Tennessee, and without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as Lot 4R1 of the W. B. Varner Addition Re-Subdivision of Lot 4, as shown by map as Instrument No. 202402070037937, in the Knox County Register's Office, to which map specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description.

BEING the same property conveyed to LUKE MCCORMICK MORRISH, unmarried, and ELIZABETH JOY ALLEN, unmarried, as tenants in common with right of survivorship, by Warranty Deed from Angela Cordoni and husband, Bret Maser, dated June 21, 2024, and recorded as Instrument No. 202406240064788, in the Knox County Register's Office.

PARCEL: This parcel is commonly known as 4721 Brown Gap Road, Knoxville, TN 37918 and bears CLT #039-045

The sale is being conducted by the Clerk and Master for the Knox County Chancery Court on behalf of the Knox County Chancery Court pursuant to the Order entered July 23, 2026, in the above cause of action.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: Friday, December 11, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE OF SALE: City-County Building within the corridor of the Main Street entrance near the Large Assembly Room, North entrance, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

TERMS: The sale will be cash and the parties hereto may not credit bid. The purchaser may either (i) pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale or (ii) pay 10% of the purchase price at the time of sale and execute a note for the balance, without interest, to be paid in full within 30 days from the sale date. As security for the note, a Knox County resident must sign the note as surety and the Clerk and Master will retain a lien on the real property until the note is satisfied. All funds must be paid by check drawn from a bank where the Clerk and Master can independently verify funds are available. If the person bidding is an agent of another person or entity, the person bidding must present sufficient evidence to the Clerk and Master, at the time of the sale, to establish his or her authority to bid. The Clerk and Master is further authorized to accept an advanced bid and reopen bidding in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 35-5-110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 865-215-2555.

Houston S. Havasy, Esq.,
Clerk and Master

This notice will run for three (3) weeks in The Knoxville Focus newspaper, run dates November 16, 23 and 30, 2026 and will be posted online at www.knoxfocus.com, www.tnpublicnotice.com and www.foreclosurestn.com for a minimum 20 continuous days beginning November 16, 2026.

KNOX COUNTY PROBATE COURT SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF HILDA MAXINE SANDS, Deceased.
No. 85888-3

NAMES OF PARTIES INTERESTED IN ALL PARCELS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED: Shirley Cruze, Personal Representative of the Estate of Hilda Maxine Sands; Tommy Joe Sands, Jr.; Clarence M. Sands; Katy Cruze (a/k/a Shirley Cruze); Wade Boswell, Trustee, securing American General Finance, Inc.; GC McSwain, Trustee, securing Associates Financial Services Company (Parcel 2 below only); known and unknown heirs of Wanda Grace Hillard, deceased; and known and unknown heirs of Tommy Joe Sands, III, deceased.

LOCATIONS:

TRACT I: SITUATED in District No. Seven of Knox County, Tennessee, and within the 32nd Ward of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as all of Lots 1 and 2, Block 2, Loveland Heights Addition, as shown upon the map of same recorded in Map Book 8, page 69, in the Knox County Register's Office, said lots lying adjacent, forming one boundary, having a combined frontage of 50 feet on the easterly side of Roosevelt Road and extending back in an easterly direction between parallel lines 120 feet.

BEING the same property conveyed to Tommy Joe Sands, Jr., Clarence M. Sands and Katy Cruze a/k/a Shirley Cruze by Quitclaim Deed from Shirley Cruze, Personal Representative of the Estate of Hilda Maxine Sands, dated October 26, 2022, and recorded as Instrument No. 202210310026121, in the Knox County Register's Office.

TRACT II: SITUATED in District No. 7, formerly 2, of Knox County, Tennessee, and within the 32nd Ward of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as all of Lots 3 and 4, Block 2, Loveland Heights Addition, as shown upon the map of same recorded in Map Book 8, page 69, in the Knox County Register's Office, said lots having a frontage of 50 feet on Roosevelt Road and extend back between parallel lines 120 feet.

BEING the same property conveyed to Tommy Joe Sands, Jr., Clarence M. Sands and Katy Cruze a/k/a Shirley Cruze by Quitclaim Deed from Shirley Cruze, Personal Representative of the Estate of Hilda Maxine Sands, dated October 26, 2022, and recorded as Instrument No. 202210310026122, in the Knox County Register's Office.

TRACT III: SITUATED in District No. 7 of Knox County, Tennessee, and within the 32nd Ward of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as all of Lots 5 and 6, Block 2, Loveland Heights Addition, as shown upon the map of same recorded in Map Book 8, page 69, in the Knox County Register's Office.

BEING the same property conveyed to Tommy Joe Sands, Jr., Clarence M. Sands and Katy Cruze a/k/a Shirley Cruze by Quitclaim Deed from Shirley Cruze, Personal Representative of the Estate of Hilda Maxine Sands, dated October 26, 2022, and recorded as Instrument No. 202210310026123, in the Knox County Register's Office.

PARCEL: These parcel(s) commonly known as 1516, 1520 and 1524 Roosevelt Road, Knoxville, TN 37914, and bears CLT numbers: Tract 1 - 071AG-013, Tract II - 071AG-012, and Tract III - #071AG-011

Sale(s) pursuant to the Order entered January 26, 2023, in the above cause of action.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: Friday, December 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE OF SALE: City-County Building within the corridor of the Main Street entrance near the Large Assembly Room, North entrance, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

TERMS: The sale will be for cash. The purchaser may either (i) pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale or (ii) pay 10% of the purchase price at the time of sale and execute a note for the balance, without interest, to be paid in full within 30 days from the sale date. As security for the note, a Knox County resident must sign the note as surety and the Clerk and Master will retain a lien on the real property until the note is satisfied. All funds must be paid by check drawn from a bank where the Clerk and Master can independently verify funds are available. If the person bidding is an agent of another person or entity, the person bidding must present sufficient evidence to the Clerk and Master, at the time of the sale, to establish his or her authority to bid. The Clerk and Master is further authorized to accept an advanced bid and reopen bidding in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 35-5-110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 865-215-2555.

Houston S. Havasy, Esq.,
Clerk and Master

This notice will run for three (3) weeks in The Knoxville Focus newspaper, run dates November 16, 23 and 30, 2026 and will be posted online at www.knoxfocus.com, www.tnpublicnotice.com and www.foreclosurestn.com for a minimum 20 continuous days beginning November 16, 2026.

KNOX COUNTY FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY

DR. NEERA UPPAL, PLAINTIFF
v.
DR. ROHIT UPPAL, DEFENDANT
No. F-24-159500

LOCATION: SITUATED in District No. Six (6) of Knox County, Tennessee, without the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and being known and designated as Lot 55, Final Plat for Solomon Place, Unit 2, as shown on the plat of the same recorded as Instrument No. 200307210008220, in the Knox County Register's Office, to which plat specific reference is hereby made for a more particular description. Said premises being improved with a dwelling bearing the address of 7922 Knowledge Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37938.

BEING the same property conveyed to Rohit Uppal by Warranty Deed from Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, dated May 12, 2010, and recorded as Instrument No. 201005240073042, in the Knox County Register's Office; and

BEING the same property conveyed to Neera Uppal to create an estate by the entireties by Quitclaim Deed from Rohit Uppal, dated July 14, 2010, and recorded as Instrument No. 201007190003760, in the Knox County Register's Office; and

BEING the same property in which the estate by the entireties was dissolved and tenants in common was created pursuant to divorce filed in the Fourth Circuit Court for Knox County, Tennessee, Docket No. F24-159500.

PARCEL: This parcel is commonly known as 7922 Knowledge Ln, Knoxville, TN 37938 and bears CLT No. 028GB-019.

Sale is being conducted by the Clerk and Master for the Knox County Chancery Court on behalf of the Knox County Fourth Circuit Court pursuant to the Order entered September 21, 2026, in the above cause of action.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: December 11, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE OF SALE: City-County Building in the Large Assembly Room, North entrance, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

TERMS: The sale will be cash and the parties hereto may not credit bid. The purchaser may either (i) pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale or (ii) pay 10% of the purchase price at the time of sale and execute a note for the balance, without interest, to be paid in full within 30 days from the sale date. As security for the note, a Knox County resident must sign the note as surety and the Clerk and Master will retain a lien on the real property until the note is satisfied. All funds must be paid by check drawn from a bank where the Clerk and Master can independently verify funds are available. If the person bidding is an agent of another person or entity, the person bidding must present sufficient evidence to the Clerk and Master, at the time of the sale, to establish his or her authority to bid. The Clerk and Master is further authorized to accept an advanced bid and reopen bidding in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 35-5-110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 865-215-2555.

Houston S. Havasy, Esq.,
Clerk and Master

This notice will run for three (3) weeks in The Knoxville Focus newspaper, run dates November 16, 23 and 30, 2026 and will be posted online at www.knoxfocus.com, www.tnpublicnotice.com and www.foreclosurestn.com for a minimum 20 continuous days beginning November 16, 2026.

KNOX COUNTY CHANCERY COURT SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY

SHIRLEY MURRELL, Petitioner
v.
KATHERYN D. ZECHMAN, Respondent
No. 197384-1

LOCATION: SITUATED in District Nine (9) of Knox County, Tennessee, within the 26th Ward of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, being known and designated as Lot 174, City Homes Subdivision of N.T. James Property Unit Four, as shown on the map of the same of record in Cabinet B, Slide 84B (Map Book 14, page 135), in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee, and being more fully described as follows.

SUBJECT to a Declaration of Restrictions of record in Deed Book 669, page 386, an Electric Distribution Line Easement granted the City of Knoxville, of record in Deed Book 669, page 474, and Deed Book 669, page 477, and to a 10 Foot easement for utilities along rear lot line.

BEING the same property conveyed by Quit Claim Deed from Shirley Murrell, unmarried, to Shirley Murrell, unmarried and Katheryn D. Zechman, unmarried, as Tenants in Common with Right of Survivorship, dated July 10, 2009, of record as Instrument No. 200907200005187, in the Register's Office for Knox County, Tennessee.

THIS conveyance is made subject to all matters shown by the map of the same of record in Cabinet B, Slide 84B (Map Book 14, page 135).

PARCEL: This parcel is commonly known as 1943 McClung Ave. Knoxville, TN 37920 and bears CLT No. 109CG-013

The sale is being conducted by the Clerk and Master for the Knox County Chancery Court on behalf of the Knox County Chancery Court pursuant to the Order entered January 16, 2026, in the above cause of action.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: Friday, December 11, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE OF SALE: City-County Building within the corridor of the Main Street entrance near the Large Assembly Room, North entrance, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

TERMS: The sale will be cash and the parties hereto may not credit bid. The purchaser may either (i) pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale or (ii) pay 10% of the purchase price at the time of sale and execute a note for the balance, without interest, to be paid in full within 30 days from the sale date. As security for the note, a Knox County resident must sign the note as surety and the Clerk and Master will retain a lien on the real property until the note is satisfied. All funds must be paid by check drawn from a bank where the Clerk and Master can independently verify funds are available. If the person bidding is an agent of another person or entity, the person bidding must present sufficient evidence to the Clerk and Master, at the time of the sale, to establish his or her authority to bid. The Clerk and Master is further authorized to accept an advanced bid and reopen bidding in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 35-5-110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 865-215-2555

Houston S. Havasy, Esq.,
Clerk and Master

This notice will run for three (3) weeks in The Knoxville Focus newspaper, run dates November 16, 23 and 30, 2026 and will be posted online at www.knoxfocus.com, www.tnpublicnotice.com and www.foreclosurestn.com for a minimum 20 continuous days beginning November 16, 2026.

COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: DERRICK ORLANDO CUNNINGHAM

IN RE: VERNELL MICHELLE GILBERT, Plaintiff
v.
DERRICK ORLANDO CUNNINGHAM, Defendant

DOCKET NO. 212925-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed that the defendant, DERRICK ORLANDO CUNNINGHAM, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon DERRICK ORLANDO CUNNINGHAM, defendant, it is ordered that said defendant, DERRICK ORLANDO CUNNINGHAM, file an answer in your defense to the Complaint with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with John D. Haines, Velo Legal Group, an Attorney whose address is 109 S. Northshore Dr., Suite 401, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice, or a judgement of default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte before Chancellor Richard B. Armstrong, Jr., in the Knox County Chancery Court, Division II, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

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

This the 22nd day of OCTOBER, 2026.

Honorable Richard B. Armstrong, Jr.
Chancellor

Houston S. Havasy
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: CAYLA HAHN

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN FAYE HAHN
DOCKET NO. 92294-1

BY: SAMANTHA D. HICKLE, Petitioner
v.
CAYLA HAHN, Respondent

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, PROBATE DIVISION

In this Cause, it appearing from the Petition to Sell Real Estate filed, which is sworn to, that the Respondent, CAYLA HAHN, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon CAYLA HAHN it is ordered that said Respondent, CAYLA HAHN, file an

answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with MELISSA WORTLEY LAWING, an Attorney whose address is 3715 Powers Street Knoxville, TN 37917, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor John F. Weaver at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division I, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

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

This the 21st day of OCTOBER, 2026.

Honorable John F. Weaver
Chancellor

Houston S. Havasy
Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNS OF LULA H. CALHOUN, DECEASED

IN RE: IRA RICHARD GLADSON, JASON HAMMOND, ANDREW HAMMOND, and SEAN ROTH, Plaintiffs
v.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNS OF LULA H. CALHOUN, DECEASED, Defendants

DOCKET NO. 213562-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint file, which is sworn to, that the defendant(s), THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNS OF LULA H. CALHOUN, DECEASED, a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNS OF LULA H. CALHOUN, DECEASED, described in the complaint, it is ordered that said defendant(s), THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNS OF LULA H. CALHOUN, DECEASED, if living, and if deceased, her unknowns heirs, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND ASSIGNS OF LULA H. CALHOUN, DECEASED, file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee, and with Sarah R. Johnson, Esq., an Attorney whose address is 11907 Kingston Pike, Suite 201, Knoxville, Tennessee 37934, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this Notice, or a Judgment by Default default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty, at the Knox County Chancery Court, Division III, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

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

This 4th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

Honorable Christopher D. Heagerty
Chancellor

Houston S. Havasy
Clerk and Master

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WENDY IRENE BAILEY
DOCKET NUMBER 93259-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of November, 2026, letters of administration in respect of the Estate of WENDY IRENE BAILEY, who died August 29, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 5th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF WENDY IRENE BAILEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
HANNAH VICTORIA BAILEY
4000 LONGWOOD DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

STEPHEN H. BYRD, ATTORNEY
9051 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE, SUITE 400
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DAVID KELLY BINKLEY
DOCKET NUMBER 93301-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of DAVID KELLY BINKLEY, who died on August 29, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF DAVID KELLY BINKLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KAREN BINKLEY, EXECUTRIX
2909 VITEX DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

JOHN M. LAWHORN, ATTORNEY
550 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 500
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN PHILIP BRADFUTE
DOCKET NUMBER 93313-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of November, 2026, Letters Testamentary with respect to the Estate of JOHN PHILIP BRADFUTE, who died September 26, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 4th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOHN PHILIP BRADFUTE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
QUINNE BRADFUTE BRYANT

W. ALLEN MCDONALD, ATTORNEY
249 N. PETERS ROAD, SUITE 101
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF NANCY DEAN FISCHER
DOCKET NUMBER 93324-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of November, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of NANCY DEAN FISCHER, who died September 29, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 5th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF NANCY DEAN FISCHER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JOHN R. DEAN, EXECUTOR
884 WIMBLEDON COURT
MACON, GA 37865

GEORGE R. ARRANTS, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 629
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0629

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BRENDA GAIL GREEN
DOCKET NUMBER 93038-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of November, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BRENDA GAIL GREEN, who died August 10, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 4th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF BRENDA GAIL GREEN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
KAREN E. GOINS, EXECUTRIX
2316 POETS LANE
ALGONQUIN, IL 60102

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM BRIAN LAMB
DOCKET NUMBER 93267-1

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

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM BRIAN LAMB

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SOFIA LAMB, CO-ADMNISTRATRIX
3812 TERRACE VIEW DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

AVA LAMB, CO-ADMINISTRATRIX
3812 TERRACE VIEW DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF F. RODNEY LAWLER
DOCKET NUMBER 93308-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of November, 2026, letters testamentary in respect to the Estate of F. RODNEY LAWLER, who died September 19, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 5th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF F. RODNEY LAWLER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JON R. LAWLER
1504 KENESAW AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

RANDALL L. GIBSON
5404 LYONS VIEW PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

TIMOTHY M. MCLEMORE, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 1990
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MICHAEL WAYNE MCCURRY
DOCKET NUMBER 93266-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of MICHAEL WAYNE MCCURRY, who died May 5, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF MICHAEL WAYNE MCCURRY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLES ANTHONY HALE
1150 DUNCAN ROAD
LENOIR CITY, TN 37772

NATHAN OGLE, ATTORNEY
265 BROOKVIEW CENTRE WAY, SUITE 604
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY FRANCES MIRANDA
DOCKET NUMBER 93288-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARY FRANCES MIRANDA, who died September 13, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARY FRANCES MIRANDA

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CAROLE WILSON, EXECUTRIX
8811 ARAGON LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

GLENNA W. OVERTON-CLARK, ATTORNEY
9041 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE, SUITE 125
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM HUGH NICELEY
DOCKET NUMBER 93294-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of November, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM HUGH NICELEY, who died October 22, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 4th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM HUGH NICELEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JENNIFER JANE NICELEY

STUART I. CASSELL, ATTORNEY
707 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF LISA MARIE OWNBY
DOCKET NUMBER 93199-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, Letters Testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of LISA MARIE OWNBY, who died on May 23, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF LISA MARIE OWNBY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
JON JASON OWNBY, ADMINISTRATOR
1736 CAMPFIRE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37931

K. RAY PINKSTAFF, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 31408
KNOXVILLE, TN 37930



By Jedidiah McKeehan
jed@attorney-knoxville.com

Discrimination Against Children Born Out of Wedlock

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

It seems that there is much less of a stigma surrounding having children while not being married. To the extent that there exists any discrimination to those children who are born to an unmarried couple, the Tennessee legislators have passed a law in an attempt to prevent such and made it a criminal act to discriminate against individuals based upon them being born to unmarried individuals.

Tennessee Code Annotated section 36-2-316 states,

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

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

This law was passed in 1997. I am not sure how much discrimination is occurring on this basis, but if it is occurring, it carries with it a criminal penalty.

Jedidiah McKeehan 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.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARGARET PASSIAKOS
DOCKET NUMBER 92935-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of October, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of MARGARET PASSIAKOS, who died November 19, 2025, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 30 day of OCTOBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARGARET PASSIAKOS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MICHAEL P. APOSTOLOU, EXECUTOR
P. O. BOX 447
SALEM, VA 24153

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BRUCE SHERRILL RUDDER
DOCKET NUMBER 93309-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of November, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect to the Estate of BRUCE SHERRILL RUDDER, who died August 10, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 2nd day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF BRUCE SHERRILL RUDDER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TANA AMMONS RUDDER
2117 GOFF ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37920

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PATRICIA YEARY STALLARD, aka PATRICIA JANE STALLARD
DOCKET NUMBER 93314-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of PATRICIA YEARY STALLARD, aka PATRICIA JANE STALLARD, who died on September 1, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF PATRICIA YEARY STALLARD, aka PATRICIA JANE STALLARD

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
WILLARD LEE STALLARD, III
141 LESTER HEIGHTS ROAD
GRAY, TN 37615

MAURICE L. BOYER, ATTORNEY
406 UNION AVENUE, SUITE 620
KNOXVILLE, TN 37902

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ANITA STURGILL
DOCKET NUMBER 93310-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of ANITA STURGILL, who died October 2, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF ANITA STURGILL

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
VIRGINIA GIBSON, ADMINISTRATOR
97 OUTER DRIVE
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830

ROBERT W. WILKINSON, ATTORNEY
CHRISTY WHITE, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 4415
OAK RIDGE, TN 37831-4415

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF RICHARD GENE SWAGGER
DOCKET NUMBER 93272-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of RICHARD GENE SWAGGER, who died August 27, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF RICHARD GENE SWAGGER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RICHARD GENE SWAGGER, JR.
7824 WASHINGTON PIKE
CORRYTON, TN 37721

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF EDITH SMITH THOMPSON
DOCKET NUMBER 93241-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of November, 2026, Letters of Testamentary/Administration in respect to the Estate of EDITH SMITH THOMPSON, who died on September 15, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his/her Estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 5th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF EDITH SMITH THOMPSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
RONALD E. CINNAMON
5029 TENWOOD DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DONALD LAWRENCE TILLMAN
DOCKET NUMBER 93180-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DONALD LAWRENCE TILLMAN, who died on July 10, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF DONALD LAWRENCE TILLMAN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DONNY LYNN TILLMAN

DAVID J. OTTEN, ATTORNEY
P. O. BOX 32211
KNOXVILLE, TN 37930

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF THOMAS D. UNGS
DOCKET NUMBER 93291-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of November, 2026, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of THOMAS D. UNGS, who died September 24, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 5th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF THOMAS D. UNGS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ELIZABETH U. PHILLIPS
5534 WESTOVER DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

MATTHEW T. UNGS
3700 RAVENS TRACE LANE
FRANKLIN, TN 37064

EDWARD A. COX, JR., ATTORNEY
1111 N. NORTHSHORE DRIVE, SUITE N-290
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BRENDA P. VAUGHN
DOCKET NUMBER 93276-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of October, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect to the Estate of BRENDA P. VAUGHN, who died on September 15, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 30 day of OCTOBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF BRENDA P. VAUGHN

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SHERRY LAMPKIN
P. O. BOX 1763
PIGEON FORGE, TN 37868

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JASON H. WHALEY
DOCKET NUMBER 93122-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of November, 2026, Letters of Administration with respect of the Estate of JASON H. WHALEY, who died July 5, 2026, were issued to NICHOLE WHALEY by the Probate Division of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 9th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF JASON H. WHALEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
NICHOLE WHALEY
3025 BARNARD ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

DUSTIN S. CROUSE, ATTORNEY
9041 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE, SUITE 125
KNOXVILLE, TN 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARY ELLEN WHITTAKER
DOCKET NUMBER 93277-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 6 day of November, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of MARY ELLEN WHITTAKER, who died August 13, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 6 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF MARY ELLEN WHITTAKER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MARY LOUISE WHITTAKER FREEMAN
1801 RIDGECREST DRIVE
KNOXVILLE , TN 37918

THOMAS C. WHITTAKER
9 SPRING MARSH CIRCLE
SAVANNAH, GA 31411

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHN SHERMAN YARDLEY
DOCKET NUMBER 93278-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 30 day of October, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHN SHERMAN YARDLEY, who died April 13, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his estate are required to file the same in triplicate with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 30 day of OCTOBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOHN SHERMAN YARDLEY

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
AMANDA LEIGH CORUM, EXECUTRIX
1919 FAIR DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOYCE ANN MULLINS
DOCKET NUMBER 93325-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of November, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOYCE ANN MULLINS, who died July 19, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Court for Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 12 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF JOYCE ANN MULLINS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
WARREN LYNN MULLINS
9214 E. EMORY ROAD
CORRYTON, TN 37721

WESLEY BRYON MULLINS
8101 CAMPBELLS POINT ROAD
CORRYTON, TN 37721

O. E. SCHOW, IV, ATTORNEY
900 SOUTH GAY STREET, 9'11 FLOOR
P. O. BOX 900
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901-0900

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF SARAH WILLARD PENEGAR
DOCKET NUMBER 93321-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 12 day of November, 2026, Letters Testamentary in respect of the Estate of SARAH WILLARD PENEGAR, who died October 19, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 12 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF SARAH WILLARD PENEGAR

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DAVID WILLARD PENEGAR

MATTHEW T. MCDONALD, ATTORNEY
116 AGNES ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF DORIS LEE OWEN WARNER
DOCKET NUMBER 93212-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of November, 2026, letters testamentary (or letters of administration as the case may be) in respect of the Estate of DORIS LEE OWEN WARNER, who died April 7, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court, Probate Division, of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2), otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

This the 10th day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

ESTATE OF DORIS LEE OWEN WARNER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHARLES KELLY WARNER
1316 MONTERY DRIVE
NORMAN, OK 73072

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

MISC. NOTICES

LEGAL SECTION 94

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

BID 3780, OVERHEAD DOORS AND RELATED SERVICES, Due 12/22/26

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

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

As per Knox County Commission Ordinance number 0-05-9-102, the following described vehicles impounded by Knox County Codes Enforcement will be offered for sale at public auction after 10 days from the date of this notice. The respective owner(s) may reclaim their respective vehicle(s) within this time by paying all costs associated with vehicle extraction, such as but not limited to towing and storage fees. After the expiration of this time period, these vehicles will be sold at public auction online at www.govdeals.com.

Please contact Russ Lonas at Knox County property management for any additional information at (865) 215-5601 or at russ.lonas@knoxcounty.org or Chris Winchester at chris.winchester@knoxcounty.org

2012 BUICK ENCLAVE SGAKVCEDXCJ367852
2015 FORD FIESTA 3FADP4BJ7FM167736
2011 HYUNDAI SONATA SNPEB4AC8BH095431

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owner and /or lien holders of the following vehicle is hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicle being held at 701 Cooper St., Knoxville, TN 37917. Failure to reclaim this vehicle will be deemed a waiver of all rights, title, and consent to dispose of said vehicle at public auction on December 7, 2026 at 701 Cooper St., Knoxville, TN 37917.

1. '14 FORD ESCAPE 1FMCU0GX3EUC28509 MAWAZO KASIKILE
2. '12 CHEVY IMPALA 2G1WG5E3XC1273809 QUINCY WHITE / ONEMAIN FINANCIAL
3. '09 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T1BE46K39U802019 TARUN GUNTAKA / RAKESH PATEL
4. '17 HONDA REBEL CMX MLHNC5351H5000246 ZHUO CHEN
5. '98 FORD EXPLORER 1FMZU32X6WZB01681 DAVID PHILLIPS
6. '11 INFINITY M37 JN1BY1AR6BM373580 CARSON and TEKEDRA JONES
7. '22 KIA SPORTAGE KNDPM3AC7N7004803 DAVID CALLAGHAN / KNOXVILLE TVA EMPLOYEES CU
8. '95 FORD THUNDERBIRD 1FALP62W9SH217313 PAMELA HANDLEY / TN TITLE LOANS
9. '02 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T1BE32K82U634139 JACOB or ALEXANDRA SHARP
10. '08 NISSAN MAXIMA 1N4BA41E88C803288 THERESA WATSON
11. '95 CHEVY TAHOE 1GNEK18K1SJ304860 WILLIAM JOHNSON
12. '15 DODGE CHARGER 2C3CDXBG3FH881175 STELLENA MORELOCK / BUCKEYE CHECK CASHING
13. '24 HYUNDAI SONATA KMHL54JC7RA384487 JEREMY SMITH or SUSAN HOWELL / GLOBAL LENDING SVCS
14. '10 NISSAN XTERRA 5N1AN0NW7AC514703 TRAVIS MUSGRAVE
15. '16 HONDA ACCORD 1HGCR2F83GA101275 HARLEY NAPIER
16. '88 GMC VANDURA RV2 1GDEG25HXJ7525020 TIMOTHY GAUSEPOHL
17. '06 HONDA CIVIC 2HGFG12846H578137 TN FARMERS MUTUAL
18. '02 CHEVY 1500 2GCEK19T421183283 STEVEN or BRIDGET MATLOCK
19. '03 SUBARU OUTBACK 4S3BH675137647492 JOHNNIE HUNT / NEIGHBORHOOD TITLE LOANS
20. '05 HONDA ACCORD 1HGCM56435A009853 N/A
21. '2010 MAZDA 3 JM1BL1S57A1188963 NANCY PEREZ
22. '14 KIA FORTE KNAFK4A61E5156795 PASCUAL MIGUEL
23. '13 CHRYSLER T&C 2C4RC1BG5DR706486 MAKAIYA HUBBARD / WALLACE AUTO SALES
24. '16 FORD EXLORER 1FM5K7F83GGC13589 KEIRRA STINSON / ALCOA AUTO CENTER
25. '17 HYUNDAI ACCENT KMHCT4AE9HU374631 JACUELYN LOVEDAY / AMERICA'S CART MART
26. '06 CHEVY COBALT 1G1AK15F167681859 COLLETTE CARTER
27. '07 KIA SORENTO KNDJD736675669114 JEFFREY SMITH / ONE MAIN FINANCIAL
28. '14 KIA OPTIMA 5XXGM4A78EG330013 ASPEN SIMONDS
29. '13 TOYOTA SIENNA 5TDDK3DC0DS057772 MINESH PATEL
30. '22 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER JA4APUAU2NU020804 BERNARDO BURRELL / WELLS FARGO
31. '14 SUBARU FORESTER JF2SJAEC6EH458876 MATTHEW or NICOLE BERGER
32. '10 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4AL2AP5AC140814 KAYLEE SEXTON
33. '21 NISSAN KICKS 3N1CP5BV0ML484536 DAVID ADAMS or CATHERINE ZBELLA / CREDIT ACCEPTANCE
34. '13 FORD F150 1FTMF1CM4DFA09131 SASHA JONES
35. '13 VW JETTA 3VW2K7AJ1DM371591 JANE AUSTIN / ALLY FINANCIAL
36. '16 SCION IA 3MYDLBZV9GY103194 NA
37. '05 KIA SEDONA KNDUP132756768756 ISAIAH TORRES
38. '09 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER JTEDS41A092080195 JOSIAH BEAUSHAW
39. '17 CHEVY MALIBU 1G1ZC5ST1HF220820 CAROLYN STEWART / KNOXVILLE TEACHERS FCU
40. '10 HONDA ODYSSEY 5FNRL3H62AB069395 STEPHANIE ROOT

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The owner and /or lien holders of the following vehicle is hereby notified of their rights to pay all charges and reclaim said vehicle being held at Joe Neubert's Collision Center, 5086 Clinton Hwy.,, Knoxville, TN 37912. Failure to reclaim this vehicle will be deemed a waiver of all rights, title, and consent to dispose of said vehicle at public auction on December 7, 2026 at 5086 Clinton Hwy.,, Knoxville, TN 37912.

1. '19 DODGE CARAVAN 2C4RDGCG1KR808394 MONTY BRUCE EMERY / CITIZENS BANK
2. '10 HYUNDAI ACCENT KMHCN4AC5AU482520 KRISTI RIDDICK / COSTAL CREDIT
3. '11 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T4BF3EK4BR171317 SHELIA FLEETWOOD

Remembering Letterpress Newspapers



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Have you ever seen how newspapers once prepared to print? A letterpress newspaper required some talent and understanding from those who prepared the print jobs. Here's my name in letterpress letters.

Cont. from page 1

Tennessee and Kentucky state line. We'd travel to a print shop with our physical sheets of copy, advertisements and developed photos, and spend hours cutting and pasting the images to layout sheets, page by page, until we passed them to the printer. We'd then take a food break and pick up copies of the paper to take to the post office and to go into racks or be individually distributed to subscribers.

That was memorable because my teenage sons helped out, and we even had a part-time employee and a thriving little business with its own office and telephone number.

A few years ago, one of my sons gave me a gift I prize: enough letterpress metal letters to spell out my name and middle initial. I display them on the top of my desk in my study.

Things continue to change, and I'm still doing what I love, presenting my work to the reading public each week. Now I'm not involved in physically laying out the next edition; that's done by our very capable editor and staff. I'm just on the reporting end of the process, covering local government, community events and human interest stories.

As I approach my 80th year and suffer the pains common to older people, I'm thankful there is still a market for doing what I love. Knowing my traditional news reporting is respected by those officials I cover is heartwarming and makes me proud of my profession.

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1301 Hwy 321 N
865-986-6533

ATHENS
201 S Congress Pkwy
423-744-9828

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LORETTA'S CLOSET

A ministry by women for women.

Loretta's Closet started 5 years ago with a handful of folks. The Lord has blessed us greatly and we would like to share His blessings. The last Saturday of each month we open our doors to Loretta's Closet. Activities start at 10:00 a.m. with brunch, a short devotion, wonderful fellowship and a visit to the Closet where you will find clothes for all ages & sizes – dress and casual, plus purses, shoes and other things you may need. Ladies who would like a Saturday morning for themselves we'd love to share the morning with you. Join us on the last Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church is located at 4110 Central Ave Pike. Should you need further information, call the church office at 865-687-6622, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. until noon.

Hope to see you soon.



GOD'S PLACE TREASURES THRIFT STORE
6119 Chapman Highway
Furniture, glassware, clothing & more
Mondays: All $1 items 50¢
Come in for prayer.
Manager - Vickie Johnson
Proceeds help feed the homeless.
M-F 10am-5:00pm 865-604-8077

classifieds

FOR SALE BY OWNER

2 CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE, SHERWOOD MEMORIAL GARDENS. VALUED AT $5,000 EACH, ASKING ONLY $2,000 FOR BOTH. CALL 682-203-4377

NEW SOLAR PANELS FOR SALE 3 – 100W AND 3 – 200W PANELS, + 2 CHARGE CONTROLLERS, 3500W INVERTER, ASSORTED CABLES AND FUSES. $400 FIRM. CALL 4PM-6PM. 865-370-8363

7 NICE CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE, WOODLAWN CEMETERY – LOT A. REASONABLY PRICED, NEGOTIABLE. CALL SONNY AT 865-257-1811

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

SOUTH KNOXVILLE / UT / DOWNTOWN
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865-573-1000

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2026 ALL-KNOX COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM



PHOTO BY JJ SPEARS

Seth Seiber and Reid Daniel of Gibbs High School are standouts on the First Team Defense of this year's 2026 All-Knox County Football Team.

The Focus recognizes 52 star athletes on annual all-county teams

By Steve Williams

The 2026 All-Knox County high school football team is loaded with stars.

It includes 52 players, which just happens to be one player less than a NFL team has.

The Knoxville Focus' All-Knox County team, which used to be called "All-KFL" years ago, has a first team, second team and an honorable mention group.

For starters, the first-team offensive linemen include Grace Christian senior Will DeLong (6-5, 283), Halls junior Noah Partin (6-2, 265), West senior Braden Tolbert (6-1, 255), Powell junior Hayden Wallace (6-7, 310) and Powell senior Jacob Kwak (6-3, 260).

As you can see, the high school boys nowadays are bigger than many of the college men that played back in the 1960s and 70s.

In addition to being Hardin Valley's starting left tackle, senior Durgan Ragland, who racked up 32 pancakes this season, was also a long snapper for the Hawks. He is committed

Continue on page 2

THE 2026 ALL-KNOX COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB-Kaden Long, Central, sr.
QB-Corbin Hobson, GCA, sr.
RB-Javey Stinson, GCA, soph.
RB-Isaac Kannah, CAK, soph.
WR-Silas Monroe, West, sr.
WR-Dasani Moulden, CCS, soph.
TE-Cade Evans, HVA, sr.
L-Will DeLong, GCA, sr.
L-Noah Partin, Halls, jr.
L-Braden Tolbert, West, sr.
L-Hayden Wallace, Powell, jr.
L-Jacob Kwak, Powell, sr.
K-Logan Holbrook, HVA, sr.
RS-Jeremiah Smith, S-D, sr.
ATH-Terrion Thomas, GCA, sr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

E-Josh Kay, Powell, jr.
L-Kaden Renfro, Farragut, sr.
L-Seth Seiber, Gibbs, sr.
L-Lincoln Jackson, S-D, sr.
E-Chance Sharp, HVA, sr.
LB-David Weaver, A-E, sr.
LB-Gavin Self, Halls, sr.
LB-Jackson Coffey, GCA, sr.
CB-Jarrell Chandler, Halls, sr.
CB-Reid Daniel, Gibbs sr.
S-Bennett Jelks, CAK sr.
LS-Durgan Ragland, HVA, sr.
P-Mack Bartholomew, Catholic, sr.
ATH-Reed Reynolds, S-D, sr.

See inside for Coach and Player of the Year, and Second Team and Honorable Mention listings.

TSSAA FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Central starts fast, holds off Rhea County

By David Klein

Big-time players make big-time plays in crunch time. Clinging to a 21-14 lead over the visiting Rhea County Eagles in a Class 5A quarterfinal game, Central Bobcats' quarterback and Mr. Football Semifinalist Kaden Long ran for a 52-yard touchdown with 1:33 left in the game. Long's touchdown stopped the Eagles' 14-point streak and put the Bobcats back up two scores. Central held off a

Continue on page 4



Central wide receiver JJ Sackie makes eludes Rhea County defenders after a catch. Photo by John Valentine.

Grace, CAK eliminated in Div II-AA semifinals

By Ken Lay

A pair of area high school football teams saw their respective seasons come to an end Friday night in the TSSAA Division II-AA state semifinals.

Both Grace Christian Academy and Christian Academy of Knoxville finished the 2026 season with an 11-2 record.

The Rams, who were the Division II-AA East Region runners-up, fell to Battle Ground Academy, 49-27, in Franklin.

Continue on page 4



The Focus recognizes 52 star athletes on annual all-county teams

Cont. from page 1

to the University of Central Missouri.

Ragland's senior teammate Cade Evans was called the "best blocking tight end in Region 2-6A" and caught four touchdown passes.

While we are close to the trenches, let's visit with some of the other linemen.

Partin was a "dominant player" and didn't give up a sack all season, said Halls Coach Brent Hughes.

Kwak led the Powell OL unit that produced 41 points and 430 yards per game.

CAK senior Michael Yoakum is an OL/DL and was voted team captain by his teammates. He was one of only two players to start both ways in every game this season and dished out 23 pancakes.

Jax Narancich, another CAK senior, was a 3-year starter on the offensive line who NEVER missed a game. He had 22 pancakes and was an All-Region Academic Award winner, too.

South-Doyle defensive lineman Lincoln Jackson pressured opposing quarterbacks 23 times.

Unfortunately, we didn't have a middle linebacker on our roster, but we figured Gibbs' senior defensive end Seth Seiber (6-2, 235) could play anywhere on the field with his stats: six sacks for -33 yards, 12 TFL for -69 yards, four QB hurries, two fumble recoveries and two INTs with one returned for a TD.

At Grace Christian, senior Terrion Thomas, who is related to UT star running back DeSean Bishop, made a great comeback this year after missing most of last season with an injury. He earned the "Athlete" title on the offensive side of the lineup and led the Rams to the state semifinals at Battle Ground Academy last Friday night.

Terrion had 12 receiving touchdowns and 12 rushing touchdowns in the regular season plus passed for three TDs.

Thomas' sidekick at GCA, sophomore running back Javey Stinson, averaged eight yards per carry this season to earn a first-team position. He also is related to Bishop.

The Rams' Jackson Coffey, a senior linebacker, totaled 115 tackles and added four sacks and eight TFLs. Let's just say he was perking for sure.

In the battle for the top quarterback, Central's Kaden Long had 2,427 passing yards and 24 touchdowns plus 1,091 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns for a total of 3,518 yards and 38 TDs.

Grace Christian's Corbin Hobson had 2,395 passing yards and 31 touchdowns but only 80 yards rushing and two TDs.

CAK junior QB Seaton Moffett had a good year and showed he can beat you with his arm and legs too. He passed for 1,386 yards and 17 TDs and carried the ball 81 times for 808 yards and 11 TDs.

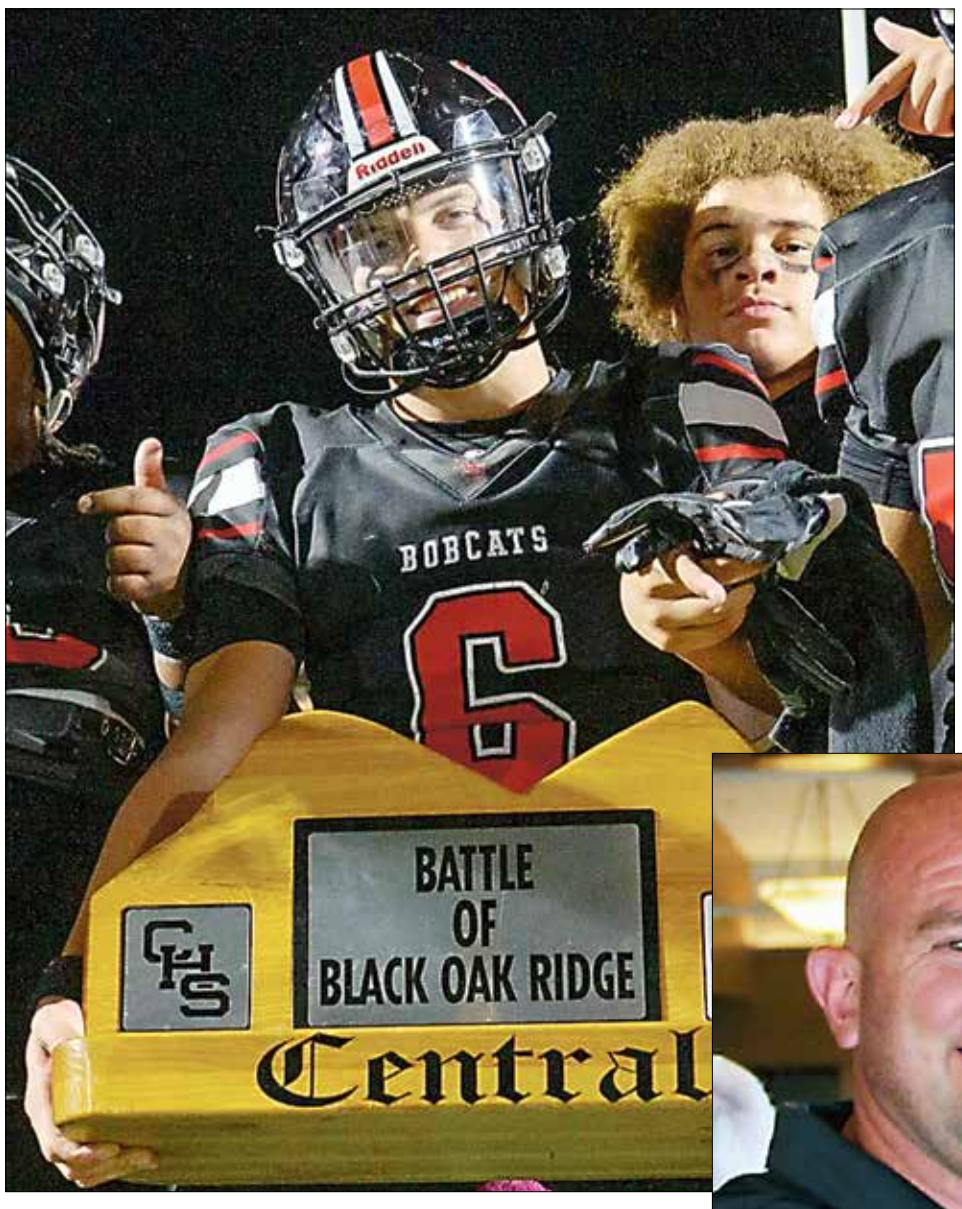
Powell senior quarterback Jaylon Benjamin ended his prep career with 21 touchdown passes and 1,954 yards.

Concord Christian's speedy sophomore Dasani Moulden made the first-team by catching 11 TD passes for 783 yards. Another CCS starter, freshman quarterback Dylan Brown, passed for 1,801 yards and 26 touchdowns for the Lions.

Running back Maverick Sharp, a Halls freshman, made the second team with 1,187 yards rushing, 17 rushing TDs and 20 total TDs.

HVA's Logan Holbrook has been one of the state's

Continue on page 5



Central QB Kaden Long (left) was named Player of the Year for the second year in a row by area coaches. Photo by John Valentine.

Coach Tyler Wynn of HVA (below) was nominated as the top coach by his peers. Wynn has just finished his third year at Hardin Valley. Photo by Ray Moseley



Tyler Wynn voted Coach of the Year

Long runs away with top player award

By Steve Williams

Tyler Wynn, in only his third season at Hardin Valley Academy, has been selected as the Knox County Coach of the Year in football.

After two losing seasons, Wynn lifted the Hawks to a 7-4 overall record this year and a TSSAA playoff berth in Class 6A.

"I'm honored to be recognized as the Knox County Coach of the Year," Wynn told The Focus.

"It's absolutely a whole program award. Our players, our coaches, our coaches' wives and families, our administration, and our fans all have played a part in the successes we accomplished at Hardin Valley this season.

"I'm proud of the product we were able to put on the field this season, but I'm prouder of the way this team bought into our core values and exemplified their commitment to resiliency, investment, selflessness, and effort.

"Our seniors bought into a vision and gave our staff 1000 days to cultivate a culture. They deserve all the recognition. This is truly their team and this was their season - I'm just grateful I had the opportunity to be

Continue on page 5

2026 ALL-KNOX COUNTY SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB-Seaton Moffett, CAK, jr.
QB-Jaylon Benjamin, Powell, sr.
RB-Maverick Sharp, Halls, fr.
RB-Keshawn Thomas, Powell, soph.
WR-Rondell North, Central, jr.
WR-JJ Sackie, Central, sr.
TE-Tyson Ritter, Karns, soph.
L-Michael Yoakum, CAK, sr.
L-Keaton Nave, GCA, sr.
L-Jayce Morris, Gibbs, jr.
L-Jax Narancich, CAK, sr.
L-Keean Norman, Gibbs, sr.
K-Sawyer Henderson, Gibbs, jr.
RS-Waco Upshaw, Fulton, sr.
ATH-Nick Rivers, HVA, sr

DEFENSE

E-Jeremiah Caswell, Catholic, jr.
L-William Taylor III, Powell, sr.
L-Keagan Covington, Catholic, jr.
L-Lincoln Jackson, S-D, sr.
E-Sawyer Anderson, CAK, sr.
LB-Isaias Amador, Powell, sr.
LB-Cole Jackson, S-D, sr.
LB-Carson Pearce, Halls, sr.
CB-Brodie Hollowell, Powell, sr.
CB-Braylen Gibbs, Catholic, jr.
S-Layden Middlebrook, A-E, jr.
P-Colston Colquitt, West, sr.
ATH-Tnaj Taylor, Central, sr.
ATH-Kaden Webber, GCA, sr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Landon Lightfoot, A-E, QB, soph.
Connor Gilbreath, Bearden, DB, sr.
Brooks Johnston, Catholic, FS, jr.
Lilian Keudjeu, Catholic, LB, jr.
David Thomas, Catholic, WR, jr.
Kruise Buntyn, Catholic, RB soph.
Brayden Gonzalez, Catholic, OL, soph.
Gabriel Gonzalez, Catholic, OL, soph.
Timothy Gay, Catholic, OL, jr.
Greyson Pace, Central, DB, soph.
Owen McGaha, Central, kicker, jr.
Jasston Chandler, Central LB, sr.
Lanier Badgett, Central, RB, sr.
Hunter Bennett, CAK, WR, sr.
Marvin Wyrosdick, CAK, LB, jr.
Elijah Krokowski, CAK, K, sr.
Johnny Rosenbalm, Carter, LB, sr.
DaVonte Scruggs, Carter, WR, jr.
Matthew Boatman, Carter, WR, sr.
Amare McKenzie, CCS, WR, jr.
Reece Franklin, CCS, LB, sr.
Wyatt Walker, Farragut, CB, jr.
Mason Swor, Farragut, FS, sr.
Jamil Smith, Fulton, QB, sr.
Zion Nelson, Fulton, CB, jr.
Keirus Cox, Fulton WR, jr.
Braylen Mathis, GCA, WR, fr.
Tucker Ownby, Gibbs, RB, sr.
Memphis Wilson, Gibbs, LB, jr.
Waylon Spierdowis, Gibbs, ATH, sr.
Keith Jones, Gibbs, QB, jr.
Jayce Morris, Gibbs, C, jr.
Keean Norman, Gibbs, OT, sr.
Riley Matz, HVA, QB, sr.
Ayden Perry, HVA, RB, soph.
Beau Wise, HVA, LB, sr.
Carter Jones, HVA, LB, sr.
Becks Allen, HVA, DB, jr.
Demarcus Jones, Karns, RB, sr.
Jason Bourne, Karns, WR/KR, sr.
Crew Batey, Karns, TE/LB, soph.
Jett Truax, Karns, K, soph.
Chandler Story, Karns, jr.
DeZion Jackson, Powell, WR, sr.
Benson Brang, S-D, QB, sr.
Walter Gould IV, S-D, RB, sr.
Lorenzen Shaw, TSD, RB, sr.
Grelyn Gordon, Webb, LB, soph.
Matthew Rogers, Webb, RB, jr.
Bryce Teutimez, Webb, K, sr.
Addison Cline, West, K, sr.

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Controversies arise when the Vols and Wildcats square off on the gridiron



By Tom Mattingly

AUTHOR'S PREFACE: Before this year's Kentucky game at Neyland Stadium, Wildcat supporters painted the Vols' legendary rock "Kentucky Blue" with accompanying messages ("Stein time" on one side and "#BBN Big Blue Rock" on the other). That caused a major stir. After the game, there was also a complaint about the noise level in the stadium. The following goes back to November 1955 for another controversy, this time involving Vol mascot, Smokey II. Smokey II had taken over as the school's mascot after his father, Smokey I, was killed by a hit-and-run driver on Rutledge Pike. Here's the story about that week in Tennessee football history, taken in part from "Smokey: The True Stories behind the University of Tennessee's Beloved Mascot," ©2012, The University of Tennessee Press.

The week before the game, University of Kentucky students had dognapped Smokey. As usual, things were hot and heavy in the rivalry, and the mascots of both schools were involved. It started with Kentucky law student Beauchamp Brogan, who had graduated from Tennessee. He was a Delta Tau Delta member at Kentucky, just as he had been in Knoxville.

"Several of us were talking about doing something to stir things up," said Brogan. "The plan was to steal Smokey." Brogan had been a U.T. student and was president of the Pep Club.

Mildred Brooks picked up the story. "These boys came over to the house and said they were with the Pep Club, and they were supposed to take Smokey for some pictures. They had Tennessee plates on their car and seemed to know us."

Rev. Bill Brooks, owner of the Smokeys back in those days, remembered one other aspect of the dognapping. "They even photographed me saying good-bye to him."

"Red flags went up when Smokey was not returned to us by noon the next day," explained Mrs. Brooks. "We knew something was wrong."

Brogan and crew had hightailed it to Middlesboro, and Brooks later received a postcard a day or so later addressed to Rev. Willie Brooks, Rutledge Pike, Knoxville, Tenn. "Rest assured Smokey will be all right. Just a friendly rivalry. Will return."

Brogan and crew took Smokey to a Lexington horse farm, telling the owner how to care for the dog. Tennessee students responded. One group was apprehended—then released—after painting a large "UT" on Memorial Coliseum in Lexington. Tennessee students, led by Gene Burton, also catnapped a stuffed UK mascot named Kernel.

The whole affair became a scene of media frenzy that sent Knoxville reporters into full investigative mode, including two News-Sentinel photographers who chased down the story. "Mickey Creager and I knew Smokey had been dognapped when we went to Lexington the day before the game," remembered Bill Dye, a News-Sentinel photographer.

"We went to the Sports Publicity Office where they told us where we could find Smokey. They blindfolded us and put us in the car. I remember telling them, 'One of us has to take the picture.'

"We saw Smokey and took the pictures, one of Smokey and one of Mickey Creager blindfolded. They took us back to the fraternity house, and we transmitted the pictures to Knoxville." Sportswriter Red Bailes reported this on Nov. 19, game day, referring to Smokey as "Old Smoky II."

Bailes added that Dye and Creager had been driven around Lexington for "20 minutes or so," while "changing cars a couple of times. "Smokey, dressed in a blue and white blanket with a large 'K,'" attended a Kentucky pep rally the night before the game.

"We have had a rough time keeping the dog away from the hands of the Kentucky boys who wanted to shave a 'K' on him," said one of his captors. "We have taken good care of the dog, and he'll be returned in excellent condition."

The exchange was made just before kickoff that afternoon. Earl Hudson, Brooks's brother-in-law and future Smokey owner after Bill and Mildred died, remembered when Smokey was returned to the Tennessee sideline on game day. Brooks was at the ready with a steak to welcome him home.

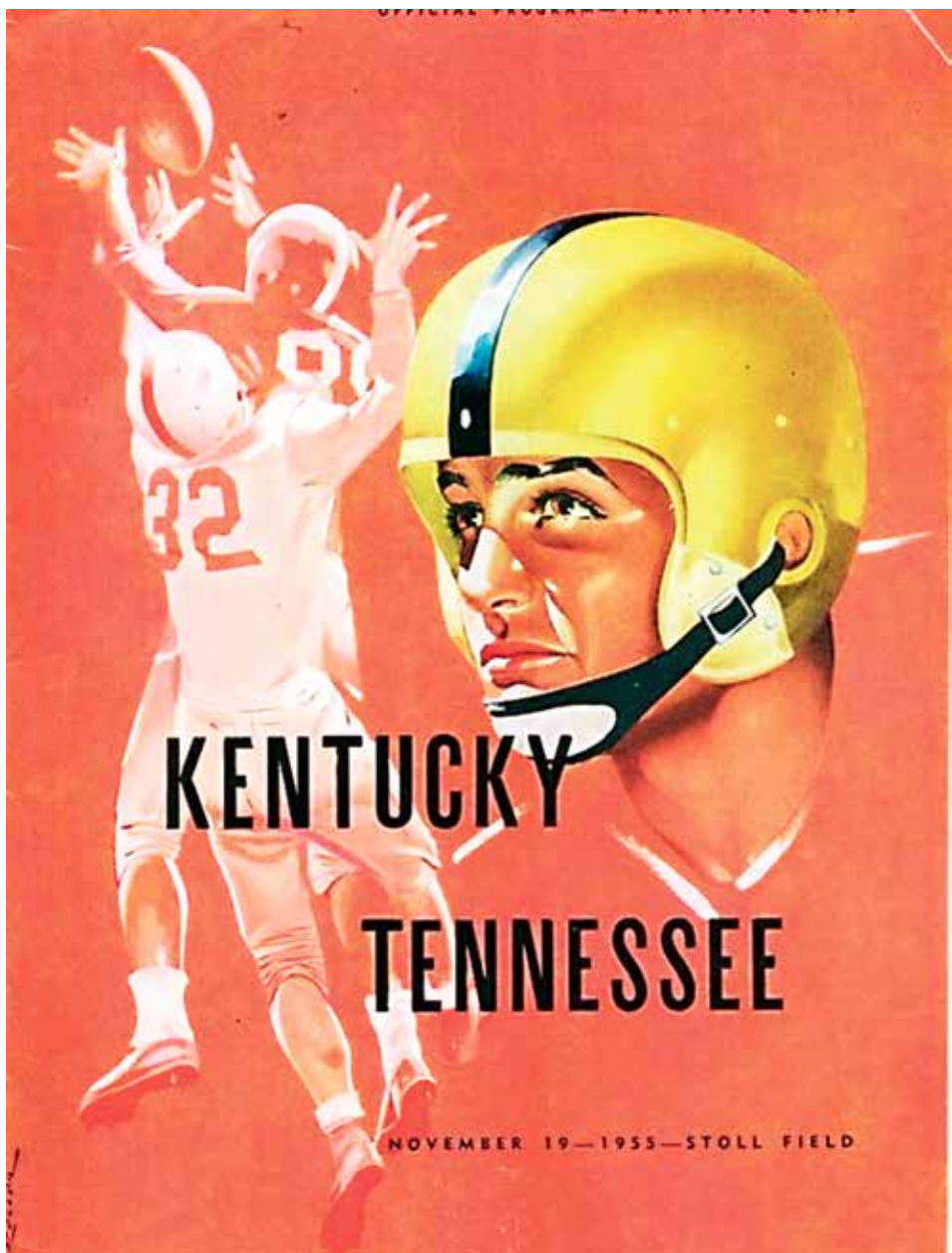
U.T. Dean of Students Ralph Dunford helped arrange a truce for the return of each school's mascot with University of Kentucky Dean of Men Leslie Martin. "We hope this will put an end to this whole episode, largely a publicity stunt engineered by a few students," said Dunford.

Kentucky won the game handily, 23–0. Kentucky had thus won three in a row over the Vols and would not lose again for the remainder of the decade, save for a 20–7 Vol win in Knoxville in 1956.

Brogan became the University of Tennessee's general counsel in 1975. According to a Knoxville Journal story, he questioned whether to tell the trustees about the experience while he was interviewing for the job.

When he did, he found support from Trustee Col. Tom Elam. "If he's smart enough to do that," said Elam, "we ought to go ahead and hire him." When contacted while the Smokey book was being written, Brogan declined comment on the whole affair.

That's the way things appeared in late November 1955.



The game program cover from the 1955 Tennessee-Kentucky game was a product of Spencer Advertising in New York City. The generic cover design was used by many colleges and universities during that time. John Park Collection, Memphis, Tenn.

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Bama Bias is Real

By Mark Nagi

During the 17 years of the Nick Saban era at Alabama, the Crimson Tide won six national championships and advanced at least as far as the national semi-finals 5 times. It's a ridiculous level of achievement.

But they've also gotten some major breaks that allowed them to advance that far into the postseason.

In 2011, they lost in the regular season to LSU, but the BCS computers still placed the Tide second, despite Oklahoma State having the same 11-1 record and winning the Big 12, while Alabama did not even win their division. Bama won the rematch with the Tigers and became national champion.

That prompted the expansion of the playoff to four teams, to ensure that there would be more access and one conference would not be able to receive each spot.

In 2017, Alabama was beaten soundly by Auburn in the regular season finale. They finished second in the SEC West. But the committee put Alabama 4th, over 11-2 Big 10 champion Ohio State. Alabama would go on to win the national title.

Bama bias started really getting out of control in 2022. There were rumors around the sport that Nick Saban was going to retire as Alabama's head coach after that season. The committee slotted the Tide ahead of Tennessee following the Vols' loss at South Carolina, using QB Hendon Hooker's torn ACL as the rationale behind that decision.

As it turns out, the final standings had Alabama 5th and Tennessee 6th. Had TCU gotten beaten by a couple of scores in the Big 12 title game, and not in overtime, Bama would have been placed 4th, ahead of the Vols. That would be despite both teams being 10-2, despite Tennessee beating Alabama in the regular season 52-49, despite Tennessee blowing out LSU in Baton Rouge while Alabama lost to LSU in Baton Rouge, and despite strength of schedule being nearly identical.

In 2023, the committee bucked all tradition by denying an undefeated power conference champion a spot in the final four. Florida State went 13-0 and won the ACC championship. But when QB Jordan Travis suffered a major knee injury late in the season, the committee used that as the excuse to bump 12-1 SEC champion Alabama into 4th, giving Saban one last try at a national championship.

But the football gods did not smile on the Tide, as Alabama lost in overtime of the semifinals against Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

In 2024, the playoff expanded to 12 teams, and yet again Alabama was on the bubble. The committee yet again did all they could to get the Tide into the tournament. Had SMU lost in the ACC title game by a couple of scores to finish at 11-2, the committee was ready to allow 9-3 Alabama entry. But SMU only lost by a FG at the buzzer to Clemson, and the committee couldn't justify placing Bama over SMU for the final at-large slot.

Last year, Alabama was ranked 9th heading into the conference championship. Bama got blown out by Georgia to finish the regular season at 10-3. That loss should have knocked Alabama out of the field or at least moved them down the line. Instead, the committee suddenly decided that conference title games shouldn't matter for seeding and kept Alabama 9th.

That allowed them to play at overrated 8 seed Oklahoma instead of a much better 7 seed in Texas A&M. The Tide beat the Sooners before Alabama got destroyed by Indiana in the quarterfinals.

And now this year... as of November 21, Bama is 8-2 with a close loss to Georgia and a blowout loss to Tennessee, and the committee has them ranked 3rd. Heck, after losses by many of the teams they have already beaten, and the Tide winning an ugly game at hapless Vanderbilt, they didn't drop a spot.

The committee originally placed them higher than they should be to ensure that had they lost at LSU, they would not fall out of the field.

It is like the committee members are getting calls directly from the SEC offices in Birmingham.

If roles were reversed and this was the resume of any team not named Alabama, they would be at least seventh. Probably lower.

I really thought that the Bama bias would end after Saban quit.

Boy, was I mistaken.

Central starts fast, holds off Rhea Co.

Cont. from page 1

late charge by the Eagles to win 28-21 and advance to the Class 5A Semifinals on Friday.

"We knew they were going to send the house," Long said of his touchdown. "We wanted to spread them out and call my number," Long added. Besides running for two touchdowns, Long passed for another one as he was efficient on passing for the night, going 11 for 12 for 196 yards.

Central got the scoring going just 1:16 into the game on Long's 18-yard touchdown pass to Tnaj Taylor. The touchdown pass came on a quick, three-play drive and put the Bobcats up 7-0.

"We got off to a fast start," Central Coach Kevin Lane said. "We pitched that shutout in the first half. Obviously, that was the difference in the game," he added.

Rhea County went on a long offensive drive to try to match the Bobcats' score, but the Eagles had to punt the ball back. Central went up 14-0 on Jermon Bishop Jr.'s 3-yard touchdown run with 11:56 left in the second quarter.

Adding to its lead, Long ran for an 8-yard touchdown with 6:53 left in the second quarter to put the Bobcats up 21-0. The Eagles had a chance to get some points before the half, but a 30-yard field goal was wide right.

Shaking off the end of the first half, Rhea County did not waste any time getting on the board in the second half. Troy Brown ran for an 84-yard touchdown on the Eagles' first offensive play of the second half. The score cut Central's lead to 21-7 with 11:41 left in the third quarter.

Central had a chance to add to its lead early in the fourth quarter, but four penalties on a drive killed the Bobcats' momentum, and Central had to punt it back to Rhea County.

Following a personal foul penalty on Central, Eagles' quarterback Jaxton Schmitt ran for a 7-yard touchdown with 2:40 left in the fourth quarter to cut the lead to 21-14 Central.

Getting the ball back, Central faced a 4th-and-3. That's when Long rambled for his 52-yard touchdown run to put Central back up 28-14.

Rhea County would get a 1-yard touchdown run on Schmitt's dive into the end zone to make it 28-21 Central with one minute left. But the Bobcats recovered the onside kick attempt by the Eagles to run out the clock.

Lane said, "It's a great team to be around. Great kids. My coaching staff's unbelievable. Great community. The school's unbelievable. It's just fun to be here. Great atmosphere. It's a lot of fun."

Central (12-1) hosts Lincoln County (11-1) Friday, with the winner going to the Class 5A State Finals.

Grace, CAK eliminated in Div II-AA semifinals

Cont. from page 1

Grace Christian found itself behind early as the Wildcats (12-1) darted out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. The Rams would never recover.

They did, however, trim their deficit to 14-7 in the second stanza as JV Stinson scored on a 6-yard run and Rafael Silva added the extra point.

Terrion Thomas also had a 1-yard scoring plunge for the Rams in the frame. But Grace surrendered two more touchdowns before halftime and trailed 28-14 at the break.

Quarterback Corbin Hobson accounted for two Rams touchdowns in the second half as he scored on a 7-yard run and threw a 9-yard touchdown to Braylen Mathis.

Hobson was 22-for-38 through the air and amassed 111 passing yards. He threw one touchdown pass and lofted an interception. He also carried the ball nine times for 32 rushing yards and a TD.

Meanwhile in Memphis, the Warriors came up on the short end of a 42-7 decision to Lausanne Collegiate School.

The Lynx (9-3) opened a 7-0 lead before CAK knotted the contest when Seaton Moffett threw a scoring strike to Hunter Bennett.

But Lausanne would close the game by scoring 35 unanswered points.

The game was CAK's first trip to the Division II-AA state semifinals, and the 2026 season was the best for the Warriors since they won back-to-back Division I Class 3A state championships in 2011-12 under former head coach Rusty Bradley.

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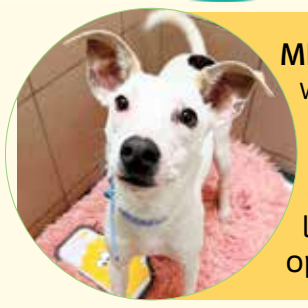

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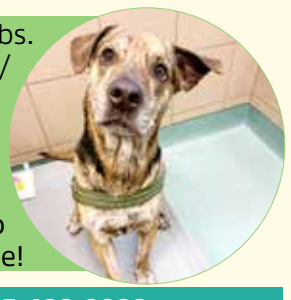

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Bearden High's Brendan Murphy (10) attempts to post up Concord Christian's Issac Kelch Thursday night in the Bulldogs' 75-37 season-opening win at home. Murphy scored 12 points in the contest. Photo by Mariah Clay.

Bulldogs open season with lopsided victory over Concord Christian

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School boys basketball coach Jeremy Parrott always wants to win. He knows, however, that victories don't always come with style points.

"You always want to win ballgames," Parrott said after his Bulldogs dismantled Concord Christian School, 75-37, Thursday night in the 2006-27 season opener for both teams Thursday night at Bearden High. "There's always plenty of work to do.

"You always want to win games so you get momentum going throughout the season, but we're not really looking at where we're at based on this game. Our next five games are going to be the tale of the tape on where we are early. Those five games are going to be tough. It's probably going to be the toughest opening stretch that we've had since 2018-19."

Two of those games were played Saturday in Strawberry Plains against Carter and Science Hill (results were not available at press time).

During the holiday week, the Bulldogs will play in the Cougar Classic at Centennial High School in Franklin.

The Bulldogs will then travel to Marble City to take on longtime rival West High on Dec. 1.

"We have a lot of work to do and we're going to back tomorrow," Parrott said. "You really don't look at scores at this point. You just want to see what you have and see who plays well together."

Despite claiming a lopsided win to tip off the new campaign, one glaring concern was evident for the Bulldogs Thursday night.

"Free throws are a problem," Parrott said.

Bearden was just 12-for-25 from the foul line, including 10-for-20 before halftime.

Poor free throw shooting or not, the Bulldogs were able to open a 39-21 lead at the break.

Bearden boasted a balanced offensive attack with three players posting double digits in the scoring column. Brendan Murphy led the way with 12 points. Porter Dickson added 11 and Griffin Anderson finished with 10.

Paxton Parrott and Damian Cullom chipped in with nine points each, while Jayceon Blair had eight.

Concord's Isaac Kelch led all with 15 points, and Mike Fritts added 12 for the Lions, who managed just 16 points after halftime, all scored by Kelch and Fritts.

The Focus recognizes 52 star athletes on annual all-county teams

Cont. from page 2

top kickers and punters during his prep career and has committed to University of Virginia-Wise. He had a 57-yard average as a punter last year and kicked five field goals.

West's quick and fast Silas Monroe was a first team wide receiver. The Rebels' senior scored 10 touchdowns and was only 40 yards short of 1,000 yards.

Gibbs' Reid Daniel also was a first-team WR/DB. He totaled 593 receiving yards and six TDs. Defensively, he intercepted five passes.

Sawyer Henderson, the Eagles' placekicker, had an excellent junior season, converting 48 of 49 extra points. He also knocked through a 45-yard field goal.

Mack Bartholomew was a veteran QB for Knoxville Catholic but the top four spots were filled. He deserved a No. 1 spot on the team and got it at the punting position.

Tyler Wynn voted Coach of the Year

Cont. from page 2

a part of it."

Wynn received six votes. Austin-East coach Stanton Stevens and CAK coach Chad Speck each had two votes. Concord Christian's Steve Matthews, Grace Christian's Justin Price and Gibbs' Brad Turner each received one vote.

Wynn has coached football for 17 seasons, 10 of which as a head coach.

In the voting for Knox County Player of the Year, Central senior quarterback Kaden Long got nine votes. CAK junior QB Seaton Moffett received two votes and Grace Christian RB Terrion Thomas got one vote.

"Kaden is a phenomenal player," said Halls Coach Brent Hughes. "His will to go make a play is what makes him so special."

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Lady Bulldogs run past Concord in season opener

By Ken Lay

The 2026-27 season opened on a winning note for the Bearden High School girls basketball team late last week.

The Lady Bulldogs overcame some mistakes to capture a 61-47 victory over Concord Christian School at home.

Bearden has several new faces this year, and head coach Justin Underwood was pleased to open the new campaign with a win over a pesky Lady Lions squad.

"It was nice to get a 'W.' From where we're at, it was a good win," Underwood said. "We have girls learning to play together and learning a new system. It was sloppy at times, and I told the girls if they made a mistake tonight, not to worry much about it and just to learn from it."

"We're playing a good team that has some good pieces."

The Lady Bulldogs have four freshmen on the roster this season. The rookies include point guard Reese Underwood (who scored eight points in her high school debut), Carsen Nesbit (who had five points against Concord), Emery Cooper (who also had five points) and Jaide Patel (who had two points).

Bearden's rookies enter the program as champions, having won back-to-back state titles at West Valley Middle School. Cooper was the Lady Wolves' all-time leading scorer.

The Lady Bulldogs battled some free-throw shooting woes over the first 16 minutes of the contest as they made 10-of-16 from the foul line.

Still, they managed to manufacture enough offense to hold a 21-13 advantage at the end of the first quarter. Bearden would extend its edge to 36-26 by halftime.

The four freshmen all saw significant playing time and made contributions to the season-opening win, but the veterans led the way in Bearden's potent and balanced scoring attack. Returners Riley Hunt and MC LeMarbre scored 17 points each for the Lady Bulldogs, who led 52-35 at the end of the third frame.

Kiran Keeton led the Lady Lions with 13 points. She made three shots from beyond the 3-point arc. Presley Horst and Sammie DeWitt scored seven points each.



Bearden's Jaide Patel (30), a freshman, attempts to score as Concord Christian's Kiran Keeton defends in the Lady Bulldogs' season opening win over the Lady Lions last week at Bearden. Photo by Mariah Clay.



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