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## Oster questioning crossover votes

By Mike Steely  
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There's a tradition in East Tennessee of members of one party crossing over party lines to vote for a candidate or candidates in the other party. It happens often and many elected officials in tight races realize there's going to be some people jumping party lines.

District 18's Gina Oster is upset that she was defeated by fellow Republican Eddie Mannis in the

recent primary election for a state house seat. Oster lost by 99 votes in the Republican Primary.

Some Knox County Republican Party officials were critical of



Oster

Mannis as a candidate and on election night Knox County GOP Chairman Randy Pace lambasted him at the party's celebration ceremonies.

Now Oster has written a letter to the Tennessee Republican Party Chairman complaining about the crossover of Democrats in the primary and said she plans to contest the election. She wrote that some 275 known Democrats who had never voted

in the Republican Primary cast ballots.

Local certification of the election takes place today and Knox County Election Administrator Chris Davis told The Focus Thursday that, as far as he knows, nothing has changed in that race.

"The election commission is going to (presumably) certify the results of the election. The results are ready to be certified," he said. Adding, "If any further

action is taken/warranted, we will consult with the State Election Commission. As of now, nothing has changed procedurally for us."

Oster's letter to the state party claims that Mannis is not a "bona fide" Republican, saying he voted in the Democratic Presidential Primary, and the state Republican Party should have rules about crossing over. The local **Continue on page 3**

## Final Action on HR Dept. at City Council

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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The new position of director of Human Resources will officially be added to the Knoxville City Administration Tuesday when the city council meets. The resolution to amend the city code comes to the body on its second and final reading. The director will be selected this fall and the \$190,300 authorized for the new department also provides for a HR Specialist.

The council will consider approving Sam Maynard to the Public Property Naming Committee on a request from Councilwoman Janet Testerman and approving Jenae Anderson-Eastery to the Police Advisory and Review Committee on a nomination from the mayor.

Several requests for zoning changes are on the agenda including properties at 4612 West Martin Mill Pike, 1301 East Weisgarber and 2724 Western Avenue. The Western Avenue property will be used for a crematorium in the middle of a cemetery there.

The East Tennessee Foundation may be approved to administer, operate and manage the Affordable Housing Fund for \$323,000. The Community Action Committee may receive \$50,000 in homeless funds for the Youth WINS Homelessness Prevention Program. Knoxville's Urban League may receive \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for workforce development.

The council will also give a final vote to the city's

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## Back to School



PHOTOS BY KEN LAY.

Holston Middle School Language Arts teacher Brittany Burgess welcomes students to sixth-grade orientation, which was held Thursday at HMS.

## Holston Middle hosts sixth-grade orientation

By Ken Lay

When Knox County Schools reopens its campuses today, it will mark the first time that students will be in a classroom setting since mid-March.

The coronavirus pandemic forced the schools to shut their doors and suspend all activities. That means that middle school teachers and administrators didn't get the opportunity to meet their incoming sixth graders or give the eighth graders the proper sendoff to high school.

But Holston Middle School and other middle schools and high schools in Knox County hosted orientations for incoming sixth graders and freshmen Thursday morning, and one area principal couldn't hide her excitement as

she greeted students for the first time in more than five months.

"It's great to be back," said Holston Middle School principal Katie Lutton. "Things are going to be different but it's great to be back. I got to do a video welcoming our virtual students back."

Things will definitely be different at Holston and across the county. For starters, students who ride buses will be required to wear masks. Anyone who enters a KCS campus building will also have to wear a face covering. Also, anyone who enters the building must have a temperature check.

Hand sanitizer and water stations will be in classrooms. Use of lockers and water fountains

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Holston Middle School principal Katie Lutton addresses the media about her school's first day. She discussed her excitement and safety protocols as Holston is set to welcome back its students today.

## Health Board rebuffs 'unelected' charge

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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The Knox County Board of Health met in weekly session on Wednesday and rebuffed critics of their policies, power and authority.

The comments came at the end of their session, covered by Zoom and CTV, with some members talking about the number of emails they get from citizens. Chairman Dr. Jack Gotcher Jr. commented that some people wrote that the board is not elected and has no power to place restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He called on the board's attorney, Daniel Sanders, who said the board is not a process of popular election: members are appointed by the Knox County Commission and must be from the medical profession. Gotcher commented that the board must "keep some distance from the election process."

Dr. Maria Hurt said she's been getting lots of feedback and some people think "we should be booted from the board."

"When politics and science combine there is no more science," she commented.

Knoxville Mayor Glenn Jacobs sat without comment in the discussion but in an earlier vote to extend the 10 p.m. curfew for bars for two weeks Jacobs was the sole "No" vote.

Dr. Martha Buchanan reported on the five benchmarks and three of them, new cases, health capacity and death rates over that week, were "Yellow" or at the caution level. The slight improvement of health statistics was attributed to more people wearing masks, keeping distance, washing

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# Calls for replacing Board of Health

**By Mike Steely**  
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The Knox County Commission's public forum during last week's work session saw several local citizens call for replacing members of the Board of Health. Over the past few months that board of medical professionals has imposed restrictions about wearing masks, closing businesses, and limiting crowds to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

While most of the public has abided by the mandates there is apparently a portion of the population that feels the restrictions violate their rights. Each speaker either removed their mask to speak at the podium or did not wear one, a violation of local ordinance. All commissioners wore masks during the meeting.

Kevin Hill of Cambridge Street called for removing the current board members because of his "loss in faith" in them. He told the commissioners the current medical board members



**Kevin Hill said the community has lost faith in the Board of Health. He and other citizens called for the medical members be removed by the commission. Photo by Mike Steely via CTV.**

are "unelected bureaucrats." Hill asked the commission to put the dismissal of the board members on their next agenda.

He said the Knox County Board of Health has issued "sweeping mandates that have negatively impacted the freedom of citizens."

Peter Easton of Ivy Stone Way said the board

of health's decisions have "caused a lot of division" in the community and added, "The only health crisis that occurs is for those who have it." He said the board tried to tell citizens "how many people they may have in their own homes." Easton also said there are questions about enforcing the mandates as noted by

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and the sheriff.

Julie Hassman presented a petition with more than 650 signatures said the board of health is not an elected body and decisions should be left to Mayor Jacobs. She said "mask wearing makes people sick" and asked that postings at restaurants and businesses be removed. She said that citizens will naturally develop herd immunity.

Sherri Garret of Sharp Road said masks could hide the identity of rapists, cause weight gain, and called for the use of Hydrochloride [sic] to fight the pandemic.

Saying that COVID-19 has a 99% survival rate, Colleen Reimer echoed the call for replacing health board members when she spoke at the public forum. "We want elected officials not appointed officials," she said.

"People are afraid to leave their homes," Commissioner Charles Busler said of older people, adding, "They want to

know how to care for themselves."

Health Department Director Dr. Martha Buchanan responded by reminding people not to touch their eyes or face when wearing a mask. She said that face shields are not as effective as masks. She also said that there's no need to be tested again if a person tested positive and noted that a positive results can show up after recovery for weeks or months.

Busler questioned the actual cause of deaths attributed to COVID-19 and breathing in carbon dioxide while wearing a mask. He told Dr. Buchanan that many people are not getting her message.

"We're going to get through this but it is going to be difficult," she replied. "We may have a vaccine by the end of the year and maybe have to get it each year as part of our routine."

In the closing minutes of the work session terminated Commissioner Brad Anders asked the Knox County law director

to report back on how the health board members could be removed. He said he has been getting emails and comments from both sides of the issue.

## If we could all be Vivians

After hearing Commissioner Charles Busler's quizzing of Health Director Martha Buchanan, Knox County Commission Chair Hugh Nystrom spoke of the noted effort of community leader Vivian Shipe, who often speaks before commission and city council on social issues.

Shipe has been promoting not only voter registration but also urging everyone to complete the 2020 Census form. She has emphasized the amount of federal funds the county will receive for each person counted in the census.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all be Vivians?" Nystrom asked.

## Final Action on HR Dept. at City Council

**Cont. from page 1**  
acquisition of property at 4901 Ball Camp Pike. About \$80,500 in funds are set aside there for part of the Northwest Greenway Connector. The city is offering to buy the property or take it by condemnation if necessary. The same is true with \$125,000 set aside to purchase four tracts for the Texas Avenue Sidewalk Project.

The police department may get \$21,300 from Homeland Security grant funds to purchase a license plate radar system.

# Do They Have To Tell Me What I Am Being Arrested For?

Occasionally I will talk with a potential client on the phone and they will tell me they would like to hire me to represent them in regard to their criminal charges.

One of my first questions is, "what are your charges?" More often than you would think, the potential client will tell me, "I don't know, they wouldn't tell me



**By Jedidiah McKeehan**  
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what they were arresting me for even though I asked." While this may be shocking to hear, this happens all of the time.

The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that it is "good police practice" to tell people why they are being arrested, however, there is no legal requirement that I am aware of that the police

are required to inform you of the charges on which you are being arrested.

We are all accustomed to watching the TV show where the cops break down a door, tackle the bad guy, and tell him he is being arrested for the murder of Mrs. Smith. That is not how it occurs in real life.

The cops will often arrest someone and they may not have decided what crimes they want to charge the person with. They may arrest someone initially for

a domestic assault and then decide on the way to jail, "Okay, I'm also going to charge them with resisting arrest, public intoxication, theft of property, etc."

So, when these people call me and tell me they do not know their charges, I believe them, but I also know that there are ways for them to have found out before calling me. Why do I say that? Well, if they were arrested, then their charges would typically care a bond requirement, and if they

are out of jail when they are talking to me then they have been bonded out of jail, likely with the help of a bail bondsman. Bail bondsman absolutely have the ability to tell them with what they are charged.

Jedidiah McKeehan is an attorney practicing in Knox County and surrounding counties. He works in many areas, including divorce, custody, criminal, personal injury, landlord-tenant, and estate planning. Visit attorney-knoxville.com.

## Letter to the Publisher

The proposed 280 apartments at the old Kroger location will forever change Farragut in many negative ways. There is no way to accommodate the added traffic without changing the character of this area. Now during school hours there is traffic gridlock. Why add 280 apartments to that existing traffic gridlock? The apartment occupants cannot entirely support this new Farragut town center and the hassle of traffic going there will keep other people away. This is a dated plan that ignores current reality. People will not shop at a place that is difficult to get in to and out of. This is a Blockbuster video tape idea in the time of Netflix movie streaming.

Drive through the Turkey Creek shopping center. There are many vacant buildings there now. Some of that is a retail downturn some of it is caused by COVID-19. The renovated old Ingles shopping center is waiting for businesses but no one has come yet. And

that is a convenient place to get in and out of. That should set off some alarm bells.

When the Town of Farragut created the town center concept many years ago there was no COVID-19 and Amazon was not the local business destroyer it is today. We do not know what future bars and restaurants have in a post COVID-19 world. They may not have a future. The planning commission should reject this plan. It is too risky. It is the wrong location. It could do too much harm to the town and the property value of Farragut residents. Farragut should stay true to its roots as a bedroom community. People moved here to get away from an urban environment. Trying to be all things to all people is a sure way to be nothing to anyone.

This concept plan really does not match the vision of a town center as passed by the Town of Farragut years ago. That plan had mixed use businesses on the

lower floor and condos or apartments on the upper floors. This is just a bunch of apartments and two strip malls masquerading as a town center. This does not elevate Farragut. It is just a "me too" copycat sell out for apartments in a place they are not needed or wanted. The Town of Farragut has already approved too many apartments in the past few years, apartments at Campbell Station Road and I-40, behind Little Joes Pizza, and on Watt Road. We have no need for more apartments especially at this location.

This proposed Farragut town center has many parallels to the Downtown West shopping center near West Town mall. In the early 1970s many executive apartments were built south of Downtown West shopping center and south of Gleason Road. Even though there was the very successful West Town Mall developers took the gamble and built out Downtown West. The concern is that Farragut's town center could

become what happened to Downtown West and the apartments south of Gleason Road. Downtown West has changed hands many times and is historically a business failure. A blueprint of what not to do. Many of the apartments south of Gleason Road became Section 8 low income housing. That was thought to be impossible when those apartments were built in the 1970s. It can happen anywhere. Even in Farragut.

Flash forward to the present. Why would anyone shop at the proposed Farragut town center when they can shop at the Turkey Creek shopping center or purchase their items from Amazon, Target Direct, or Walmart Direct? Back when Downtown West shopping center was built in the 1970s there was no COVID-19 and no Amazon. It still failed because it wasn't a good idea for that location. This Farragut town center is a gamble the Town of Farragut should not approve.

There are many better options for this land. Options that are safer and match what the people of Farragut say they want. The old Kroger could be used as a learning annex to Farragut High School and for storage for Knox County Schools. That would be very helpful in increasing social distancing in our schools with COVID-19 should this virus continue into 2021. One of the biggest requests in the town of Farragut is for an aquatic center which would be a great fit for the empty farm land. There could be tennis courts for Farragut High School. It could also be a good location for a new subdivision which would be much better than this proposed town center. In terms of bringing money to the town a subdivision is a safer bet and it is better for the residents.

Why invite risk when there are better options?

Mike Mitchell  
Farragut



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# Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,  
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## It Doesn't Work? Really?

Mike McMillan. East Knox County's member of the Knox County Board of Education, wrote a letter to school administrators perhaps two months ago suggesting the school folks ought to look into technology available for sanitizing classrooms and buildings using UVC technology. I asked about this as a member of the Schools Reopening Task Force; the reply I received was the technology doesn't work. Really?

Then it must be my imagination that I just read Emerald Academy, a private school in Knoxville, has just announced a partnership with Ionogen, a company which distributes "cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants." Ionogen distributes the product line of Ionopure, a company that specializes in cleaning products that are considered to be eco-friendly while still able to kill germs. You can imagine my surprise to read each classroom in the Emerald Academy will have an air purification system to kill viruses, a topic brought up originally for the Knox County School system by Mike McMillan.

I reckon it's also my imagination that TVA is offering a new incentive program for "businesses and schools to install UVC germicidal lights that remove viruses, like COVID-19, and bacteria from indoor air."

Let's quote from TVA's press release on the subject: "UVC light is a short-wave ultraviolet light used around the world to

disinfect air in hospitals and laboratories. Studies show UVC light is 99.9% lethal to bacteria, fungi, viruses and other microorganisms." TVA's press release goes on to say the use of UVC light is "ideal for schools, offices and retail locations to help keep people healthy." Well, it might be used all over the globe, but not in the Knox County Schools. Again, I was told it doesn't work.

So, is TVA perpetrating a hoax upon school systems and businesses across the world? I don't think so, but this is what happens when a bunch of former teachers, upgraded to administrators, call the shots. School systems are the only enterprises in the world where a former teacher and principal is capable of doing any job. The Knox County School system spends over \$500 million tax dollars annually, so it's a big enterprise, but it seems to me not using the technology available through UVC is short-sighted.

Mike McMillan looks to be about the smartest person who has anything to do with the school system right about now.

## Candidate wants the election overturned

Gina Oster, who lost the GOP nomination for the state House seat in District 18, has evidently sent a letter asking the Tennessee Republican State Executive Committee to overturn the results of the recent primary election.

Former mayoral candidate Eddie Mannis was the winner of a hard-fought primary by 99 votes for the House District 18 GOP nomination. Glenn Jacobs won the GOP nomination for Knox County mayor by 23 votes as I recall, and Sam McKenzie won the Democratic nomination for state representative in District 15 by 23 votes over Matthew Park the same night Eddie Mannis was victorious.

I was shocked when the Democratic State Executive

Committee ruled Representative John DeBerry off the ballot. DeBerry has been in the state legislature for twenty-six years and is a charismatic man of considerable oratorical abilities. That man sure can make a speech. Even though he was a duly qualified candidate, having followed Tennessee state law to the letter, DeBerry was ruled off the ballot by the Democratic State Executive Committee because they didn't like his values.

DeBerry wasn't for abortion on demand, you see. The Democratic State Executive Committee wasn't having any of that and don't forget, John DeBerry is an African-American man and the party of compassion and diversity will absolutely not tolerate any deviation from an increasingly radical abortion policy that comes mighty close to killing a baby right up until the moment he or she is born.

John DeBerry is a man who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, who heard King's last speech before he was tragically murdered. That made no difference to the Democratic State Executive Committee, as they doubtless prefer the kind of protesters who burn businesses down to the ground and insist upon calling them "peaceful."

Now the Republicans appear to go the Democrats one better by removing a duly elected nominee off the general election ballot. Tennessee has NO voter registration, NONE. A voter is asked whether he or she wants to vote in the Republican or Democratic primary. Oster apparently claims she was deprived of the GOP nomination due to "crossover" votes. Crossover from whom? Crossover from what?

Considering there is no party registration or closed primaries in Tennessee, there really isn't any such thing as a crossover voter. Lest we not forget, the biggest "party" or group of voters in Knox County, and

the country for that matter, are Independents, who float back and forth, voting in whatever primary they wish.

According to Tennessee state law, any legitimate and registered voter may cast a ballot in either the Republican or Democratic primary.

Once the voters have spoken, it's over. That's it. The only instance where there should be any kind of question about election results is when there is some demonstrable and legitimate evidence of voter fraud. There is no evidence of voter fraud in this instance.

The notion the state executive committee, a handful of people, of either party can keep lawfully qualified nominees off the ballot is loathsome to any person who loves democracy. The idea a state executive committee could arbitrarily take a nomination won through a primary from a candidate is worse still. If this type of action is allowed to stand, it will have a chilling effect upon elections in Tennessee. It will mean state executive committees—usually populated by folks who couldn't otherwise win an election to any office—will be the final arbiters of who can run for office, as well as who will be the nominee for potentially every office, in every locality, of each party in the State of Tennessee. That would be the death knell of primary elections in Tennessee and that is not an overstatement. It is naked disenfranchisement of voters.

Do you remember when one state legislator wanted the caucuses in the General Assembly to pick the party nominees for the United States Senate? Just over 100 years ago, the state legislature DID elect U.S. senators. It was a terrible idea and deserved the quick death it died and was a foolish attempt to turn back the clock. Pretending a small body of party functionaries has the right to determine who can and cannot run or who has won that party's

nomination smacks of bossism, at best. At worst, it is a naked attempt to allow a select handful of people to select nominees in the place of the people.

The Tennessee General Assembly should consider legislation in the next session regarding the authority that state executive committees have to keep candidates off the ballot or dropping a legitimate winner of a party's nomination. Another alternative would be to have party registration and closed primaries.

Republicans, meaning those voting in this month's Republican primary, have spoken and no group of people should be able to overturn an election after it is over.

## And A'Pandering We Go!

No, it isn't commentary about panda bears, but rather political pandering and goodness knows there's plenty of that. This time the panderer is state Representative Gloria Johnson who recently had a social media tantrum telling anybody and everybody Tennessee's "rainy day" fund is \$4 billion! That's FOUR BILLION dollars, people and teachers need a raise right this minute. Johnson is ringing the dinner bell calling them teachers to come down for a hearty feed. Now you just go on home if you are one of those people who ponder the plight of others less fortunate or employ the use of logic. We don't need none of that around here!

State estimates are the budget will be more than \$1.5 billion off for next year and the rainy day fund might be needed for something else. Who knows what else might happen and what if there is another shut down of the economy? Now I imagine Johnson would tell you to hush your mouth 'cause them hardworkin' teachers just plain deserve that money!

Of course this has nothing to do with fiscal responsibility or logic; Johnson is a

former teacher herself and is pandering to her base. Teachers make out all right, especially in this economy. Last time I checked, teachers haven't missed a check and until recently, hadn't worked a day since March. There are all kinds of businesses—and yes, businesses pay taxes and provide jobs for folks who also pay taxes to the federal state and local governments—that won't reope their doors. It's taxes that pay for the operation of every aspect of government and I believe Johnson likes taxes almost as well as she does teachers. Why not just come out and say she wants to tax folks more to give teachers a raise? And for those of you who don't watch government at all, teachers have been given somewhere around 15% in raises—just from Knox County—over the last few years. That doesn't count step-raises or raises from the state. How much did you get with your last raise? Did you get one at all? I guess teachers just work harder than you do.

New York governor Andrew Cuomo is begging folks to come back to the Empire State because wealthy folks, 1% of the population, pay HALF the taxes collected. Unemployment benefits have been all some families have to live on, but according to Johnson, that doesn't really matter because teachers need and deserve a raise. Teachers get four weeks-worth of "breaks" during the school year, which is a full month off work; everybody knows they have two months off in the summer. What most folks don't know is the average teacher in Knox County earns \$48,700 annually.

Yep, it's pandering because Johnson has an opponent in the general election in Elaine Davis, who is knowledgeable about state issues and is an articulate and formidable opponent.

## Oster questioning crossover votes

*Continued from page 1*

party apparently does and, prior to the election, appealed the Mannis candidacy with the state party only to find that three well-known Knox County Republicans vouched for Mannis, killing their effort.

State election law notes that "any bona fide member of an affiliated with the political party" is eligible to seek an office in a primary. But it goes on to say, "At the time the voter seeks to vote, the voter declares allegiance to the political party whose primary the voter seeks to vote and states that the voter intends to affiliate with that party."

Tennessee is an "open primary" state and there is no party affiliation required. Voters are not "registered" Republican or Democrats. Each county has its own rules but state law always outrules those policies.

The Focus contacted the Tennessee Division of Elections and Julia Bruck, director of communications in the Office of the Tennessee Secretary of State, replied.

"To contest a primary election a complaint is filed with the political party holding the primary. The political party has the authority to decide the contest and whether any violations occurred," she said.

# Health Board rebuffs 'unelected' charge

*Continued from page 1*

hands, staying home when ill and not touching faces.

Hurt said some people are asking if masks should still be worn with the number of positive cases going down. Dr. James Shamiyeh of UT Health Systems answered by saying, "Mask wearing is fundamental."

"If we relax we're just going right back up," he said.

"COVID is here to stay—we have to learn to live with

COVID," Buchanan said.

The board, with only Jacobs opposing, voted to extend the bar curfew of 10 p.m. for two weeks. The curfew was set to end last Wednesday but the board discussed the incoming UT students and wants information on the virus in that population.

Hurt said some bars are complaining that sit-down restaurants may still serve alcohol after 10 p.m. but the board took

no action on the matter.

Buchanan was asked where people could report violations of the board's current regulations, such as mask or curfew violations, and the health department director urged citizens to report incidents to the city's 311 telephone number. She said that when reported her department or the city would visit the violators. Neither the city, county or health department have issued any

violations or fines so far.

The board decided to continue its weekly sessions but Gotcher and Buchanan will be in Nashville for this Wednesday's session and Dr. Marcy Souza said she would act as chair if needed. Gotcher also reminded the board that their Zoom meetings may soon expire under the current policy by the governor. He said they should be looking for a meeting place in case the authorization ends.

# Holston Middle hosts sixth-grade orientation

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will be prohibited and cafeterias will look different at lunch time.

"We won't have lockers this year, so the students will have to use their backpacks," Lutton said. "We'll have water stations; we can't use water fountains."

"We'll serve lunch in our lunch room, but instead of having 10 students at a table, we'll have four. One of the questions that I was asked most was, 'Will our children be able to socialize?' We want our students to socialize."

But that, too, will look different; Lutton said that she would provide constant reminders for students to social distance during this new normal.

"Kids, especially kids this age, they love palling around with their friends arm in arm," Lutton said. "But we'll have to be insistent. We'll have to be firm, but we're going to do it kindly too."

"It's important to keep each other safe, to keep yourself safe because we don't want you bringing anything home to your parents, bringing home illness to your family."

Lutton also added that she was going to encourage students to use their voices in social settings and in group projects.

"A lot of the school experience will feel the same," she said. "Some things are going to be different and those things will be visible. Students will use bottle filling stations instead of water fountains. We'll do group work, but it will have to be different, and I'll notice that rooms will be a little chattier when I walk by and that's fine."

Like Lutton, Holston sixth grade social studies teacher

Ginger Cook is happy to return to the classroom.

"Teaching is my calling," Cook said. "That's what I love to do, and so for me not to be here for five months, even with our summer break, was hard."

"It's great to be back." Cook will teach two in-person classes. But she'll also have a pair of virtual classes during the fall semester and said that she'll spend the first couple of weeks getting to know her new students before taking them on a journey with her world history class.

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Getting to know

**Courtney Durrett**

By Mike Steely  
 Senior Writer  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Democrat Courtney Durrett surprised a lot of people recently by being elected to the Knox County Commission. She and her Republican opponent, Grant Rosenberg, ran honorable campaigns for Michele Carringer's District 2 seat and now Durrett hopes to bring her experience and voice as one of two Democrats to that body.

The well-spoken Central High School graduate has a master's degree from the University of Tennessee and is the child of two public school teachers. Durrett has classroom teaching experience, founded the Fountaincrest Neighborhood Association, and served as a part-time staff member in the Office of Neighborhoods. Durrett has two children with husband, Ruf.

The Knoxville Focus asked Durrett several questions as follows.

**Please make a statement about your recent campaign.**

We ran a strong, upbeat, high road campaign. It was a lot of hard work but it definitely paid off.

**How did that affect your family, business or other interests?**



Courtney and Ruf Durrett and their two children snuggle together for a family holiday photo at the 2019 Celebration of Lights. The newly elected District 2 Knox County Commissioner brings teaching and organization experience to the commission. Photo courtesy of Courtney Durrett.

My family was supportive, and we all worked together. We all made calls, door-knocked etc. I am glad my children had an

opportunity to see how this works as I did when I was little. It was time-consuming and took me away from them but we all knew

it would be worth it in the long run.

**Tell us a bit about your family.**  
 I am a home-grown girl. My family has lived in District 2 for at least four generations. I was born at St. Mary's and so were my children. I attended Belle Morris Elementary, Whittle Springs Middle, Central High and UTK for both of my degrees. I moved away for a few years after graduating from UT, but my husband and I decided to come back to raise our family here.

**What are your hopes for the county?**  
 I am excited that the commission has new people who will bring energy and new ideas and will mesh well with the experienced commissioners and their proven ideas. I look forward to the new innovations and fresh perspectives to come.

**What is your main hobby or interest in your private life?**

I bake cakes in my spare time (when that exists). It started with making birthday cakes for my own children and grew from there.

**What do you see as your main accomplishments in life?**

Aside from winning this election and being a mom and a wife, I am a dedicated public school teacher, and I created our neighborhood's

**Continue on page 2**

**ETHS  
 Opens  
 Woman  
 Suffrage  
 Exhibition**

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of women gaining the right to vote nationally, the East Tennessee Historical Society has announced the opening of a new feature exhibition in the Museum of East Tennessee History's Streetscape entitled *Marching to Victory: East Tennessee's Role in Votes for Women*. The exhibition, which will run through November 2020, tells the story of Tennessee's history in politics and civic engagement and showcases how Tennessee became the "Perfect 36th" state needed to secure national ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

This special exhibition chronicles the national progression of the Woman Suffrage Movement and highlights East Tennessee contributions including those made by Lizzie Crozier French, Cora E. Burke, and Eliza Shaut White. The Streetscape with its recreation of a 1920s East Tennessee Main Street serves as the backdrop for visitors who are immersed in the drama of the Woman Suffrage Movement. Life-size mannequins dressed as suffragists hoist reproduction campaign signs, as interpretive panels recount the unique stories of how individuals affected change.

The "march to victory" culminates in the display of the letter State Representative Harry T. Burn received from his mother, Febb E. Burn, encouraging him to vote in support of woman suffrage. This letter persuaded Harry Burn to change his vote, breaking a deadlocked state legislature, and ultimately changed history by making the ratification of the 19th Amendment possible. The letter is on loan from Knox County Public

**Continue on page 4**

**Faces changing on Knox County Commission**

By Mike Steely  
 Senior Writer  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

It's official. The Knox County Election Commission has verified the Knox County's General Election results and that means changes for the Knox County Commission.

As the outgoing commission honors those members leaving, the elected body of the county is preparing to welcome the new members.

The commission is honoring Evelyn Gill, who was defeated by Dasha Lundy in the District 1 Democratic Primary. Lundy went on to defeat Independent Reginald M. Jackson in the August Primary Election.

Vice Chairwoman and District 2 Commissioner Michele Carringer will be



Knox County IT Director Zack Webb speaks to the four new Knox County Commissioners prior them taking office in September. Several county officials spoke during the two-day orientation in the City-County Building last week including Commissioners Hugh Nystrom and Larson Jay, Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Finance Director Chris Caldwell, and even former county mayor and now Congressman Tim Burchett dropped by. Photo courtesy of Larsen Jay.

honored. She is leaving the commission after defeating Patti Lou Bounds for the Republican nomination for the state legislature to replace retiring

Bill Dunn. Carringer will face Democrat Elizabeth Rowland in the General Election.

Carringer's commission seat was captured by

Democrat Courtney Durrett who defeated Republican Grant Rosenberg. Durrett joins Lundy as the only Democrats on the commission.

Republican Kyle Ward defeated Democrat Todd Frommeyer to replace District 4 Commissioner Hugh Nystrom who had

**Continue on page 2**

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 -by Karen Terry

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# Getting ready for winter

My son Dallas has a lot of his grandmother's DNA flowing through his veins. For the second year, he's put out pepper plants in five-gallon buckets (he doesn't have much yard at his condo). He's



By Joe Rector  
joerector@comcast.net

babied those plants, and they've yielded hundreds of banana and jalapeno peppers. Dallas has concocted his own preservative juices into which he places them. He's even given jars of his harvest to friends and neighbors.

My mother spent most of the late summer putting up things out of the garden. Of course, the first thing she did was pick and pull and dig the vegetables from plants or the soil. Daddy had run a tiller between rows to keep most of the weeds down, and we boys were exiled to that same garden to pull weeds where the plow didn't reach.

Mother scrubbed some things and washed others. We broke beans until our fingers were sore, and we

dodged yellow jackets as they swarmed around the sweet corn that she cut from the cob. Next, she began the process of saving the food for the winter months.

Some vegetables were frozen. Corn was cooked, cooled, and placed in freezer bags. It was stored in a chest freezer as large as a coffin and stacked between the meat from half a calf and a heft supply of day-old bread and snack cakes. Green peppers, as well as peaches and strawberries, were cut into pieces of diced before being frozen.

The heat of summer was intense in a house with no

air conditioning, but Mother fought through that over a hot stove. She boiled water in huge pans and then filled them with Mason jars stuffed to the top with green beans or stewed tomatoes. The things I loved the most were pickles. She had a fantastic recipe for dill pickles, and she also put up several jars of sweet pickles. We heard popping throughout the day as the lids to the jars sealed. Kitchen counters disappeared under the quart jars of foods.

Mother also made sure we had plenty of jelly. We picked gallons of blackberries and got a heavy dose of chiggers for our efforts.

We raced the birds to pick grapes from the vines in our yard. Mother also picked apples from our yard or from an orchard. By the time she finished washing, peeling, and slicing those fruits, dozens of jars of jelly, jam, and apple butter were ready for the paraffin sealer she always poured on the top of the jar before twisting on the lid.

We all helped to carry the preserved foods to the basement. The top of the ledges served as shelves. Mother put green beans in one area, pickles in another, and jellies closest to the stairs. I marveled at how much food she'd stored

away and thought we'd never get through it all. By the end of winter, however, the ledges were nearly bare, and the freezer had huge voids where meat and vegetables had once sat.

I miss those canned foods that were always a part of my younger life. Most of all, I miss the woman who worked so hard to make sure her family had plenty to eat in the cold months of the year. It would be nice to have one more dill pickle or one more quart jar of beans. Even better would be a big jar of blackberry jelly. I hope Mother knows how much we appreciate all that she did for us.

## Faces changing on Knox County Commission

Cont. from page 1

decided to not seek re-election.

John Schoonmaker, the Republican commissioner of District 5, defeated Democrat Kimberly Peterson, and returns to that seat. Schoonmaker defeated Scott Broyles in his party's primary.

School board member and Republican Terry Hill joins the commission after running without opposition for the District 6 seat. She replaces Brad Anders, who is term limited and going on to become the director of the Knoxville-Knox County 911 System.

That means women serving now will number three as opposed to two.

Returning to the commission without general election opposition are District 8's Richie Beeler and District 9's Carson Dailey. The new and re-elected commissioners join current members Randy Smith of District 3, District 7's Charles Busler, and At-Large Commissioners Larsen Jay and Justin Biggs.

A reorganization meeting to select officers and make committee appointments is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, in the main assembly room of the City-County Building.



Lundy



Durrett



Ward



Hill

## Blessed! never having to live through a pandemic

It is one of the simple guidelines in our new, normal world---stay home.

Doing so has provided plenty of time for families to reflect. Even amid the pandemic that has affected thousands of lives, a glance back often brings back some degree of our "old" life. These days of pandemic are a reminder of life in the sixties when my brother and I were growing up on the dairy farm. Then, as now, we stayed home most of the time.

Reflection is important. August 31 will mark 26 years since our father passed away. On Father's Day of this year, Ralph Omer Major would have turned 94 years old. Born in 1926, he lived his entire life between the pandemics of 1918 and 2020. In his lifetime, he never had to wear a mask or practice social distancing. It is impossible to know if he would have had issues with wearing a mask, but he always did whatever his cardiologist told him to do. He found joy on ordinary days like in this picture when neighbors stopped by on a Saturday evening in summer. It was taken at the edge of Ralph's garden as they gathered around Gene Thompson's Farmall tractor that had been used



Pictured: (L-R) Wayne Major (kneeling) with Tom Sharp's dog, (standing) the late Ralph Major, the late Tom Sharp (on tractor); and the late Gene Thompson. Photo by Ralphine Major.

for cultivating. When heart disease robbed him of his livelihood of dairy farming, Ralph started growing a bigger garden and would often take bags of corn, peanut beans, and mustard greens to the neighbors. It was his nature to call and check on neighbors regularly. In the spring, it was Ralph's delight to go with long-time friend, the late Ronnie Merritt, to Grainger County to pick up tomato plants.

The beautiful sunflower

arrangement given to us last year has brightened our days all through this year, bringing a sense of joy and peace and reflection. The generous giver had read in previous columns that, at our father's death, the sunflower became my new favorite flower. It still is.

Words of faith: Psalm 104:24 (KJV) "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches."

## Getting to know Courtney Durrett

Cont. from page 1

association. I also started the state's Fiber to the Home program when I worked for the state's Economic and Community Development Department that provides grants to rural areas for fiber internet services.

How do you think other people see you?

I am committed, hard-working and tenacious. I am easy to work for, get along with and flexible. I value others' opinions but also expect the same in return.

How has COVID-19 touched your life?

COVID-19 has added stress to our lives. It has affected my children's ability to learn and socialize. It has hindered our ability

to see my parents. It has affected my ability to do daily tasks. I was unable to meet people in person during my campaign. So it has been tough for us as it has for everyone. But on a much larger scale, it saddens me that so many people have died and have been sick including some close friends.

If you had to do one thing over in your life what would that be?

I honestly would

not change anything. Everything that has happened in my life has led me to be exactly where I am right now. And I wouldn't change that for the world. But, my knee-jerk reaction was to say I would avoid injuring my knee playing sports (pun intended).

If you chose one thing in your position that is very satisfactory what would that be?

I now have an opportunity to be an advocate for education and community on a much larger scale.

What's your favorite meal or place to dine?

My favorite meal is one shared with my family and friends that we have all made together.

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# Tennessee and Women's Suffrage

## Ratifying the 19th Amendment

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill  
rayhill865@gmail.com

It has been 100 years since Tennessee ratified the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote in our country. It seems appropriate to celebrate the occasion in these pages.

Tennessee became the battleground state for the ratification of the proposed nineteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The issue was hotly debated and many of Tennessee's statesmen were opposed to the federal government approving giving women the right to vote. The most prominent supporter of giving women the right to vote was Tennessee's junior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar. Tennessee's senior U. S. senator, John Knight Shields, was not at all friendly to the idea of giving women the right to vote. Shields, like many Southern senators, argued it was less a matter for the federal government to consider than that of States' Rights. McKellar had pushed the state legislature to give women the right to vote in presidential and municipal elections, lending the measure his support and prestige. Senator McKellar was greatly pleased when it passed the Tennessee General Assembly.

The U.S. House of Representatives made it possible for Tennessee to consider ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution when it passed Women's Suffrage legislation on May 21, 1919. The Senate followed with its own approval a few weeks later and Tennessee's Kenneth McKellar was one of sixty-six senators voting for it. John Knight Shields refused to vote.

If anything, McKellar became more vocal in his support for giving women the right to vote. The senator had become acquainted with one of the leading suffragettes of the time, Sue Shelton White. Miss White was a native of Tennessee and a lawyer, which was highly unusual for the time. Sue Shelton White was a militant suffragette, participating in the incineration of President Woodrow Wilson's effigy outside the White House in 1919. Miss White was one of thirty-nine women arrested on February 9, 1919 and was taken to jail and given a sentence of five days in prison. Unrepentant, Miss White and her fellow prisoners immediately went on a hunger strike. Sue Shelton White was the only woman from Tennessee to be jailed for her suffrage work.

Sue Shelton White had been raised somewhat unconventionally for the time in which she lived.

Miss White's mother had refused to join her husband's church once they were married. It was all the more surprising considering James White was a minister. Perhaps equally shocking for that time was Mary White not abandoning her teaching career. Sue Shelton White's father died when she was a girl of six, leaving his widow Mary to provide for five children. When Sue White was fourteen, her mother died and she went to live with an aunt. At sixteen, Sue Shelton White took some college courses and eventually attended West Tennessee Business College. Sue White became the stenographer and clerk for the Southern Engine and Boiler Works in Jackson, Tennessee. In 1907, Sue White's sister resigned as the court reporter for the Tennessee Supreme Court in Jackson and she eagerly filled the job until 1918. Enterprising, Sue Shelton White also started her own stenographic business.

Sue Shelton White was one of the leading lights in the women's suffrage movement and lobbied relentlessly for ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment by the Tennessee legislature. White kept in close touch with K. D. McKellar, advising the senator of who to contact or suggesting whom he could influence to support giving women the vote. McKellar sent Miss White a telegram telling her he would arrive in Nashville "within a few days" and would "do everything possible to have the legislature ratify" the Constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote. Miss White readily admitted, "We have counted on Senator McKellar's help from the first." Sue Shelton White reminded a reporter McKellar had spoken before the Delaware state legislature urging ratification of the amendment and had even braved a snowstorm to help in Maryland. Miss White added McKellar's presence in Nashville "will add greatly to our chances for success."

McKellar led other prominent lawyers to call for ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, including Charles T. Cates, once Tennessee's attorney general, and James A. Fowler, a highly respected Republican from Knoxville, who had served as a special attorney in the national Attorney General's office in Washington, D. C. A delegation of Tennesseans opposed to ratification was led by West Tennessee congressman Finis Garrett, while Major E. B. Stahlman, publisher of the Nashville Banner, spoke against ratification of the



Miss Sue Shelton White of Tennessee; lawyer, activist, and militant supporter of voting rights for women.

Nineteenth Amendment before the state legislature. Stahlman's Banner and the Chattanooga Times were the leading daily newspapers in Tennessee opposed to women's suffrage.

Finis Garrett was hardly the only member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation opposed to suffrage for women. Congressman John A. Moon of Chattanooga and Cordell Hull were also opposed to giving women the right to vote. Hull, as a member of the Democratic National Committee, joined Virginian Carter Glass in opposing a resolution urging congressional Democrats to support the women's suffrage amendment.

Tennessee's governor at the time was Albert H. Roberts, who had been elected in 1918. At the very least, Governor Roberts was indecisive on the issue of women's suffrage. Not surprisingly, Roberts was reluctant to call the legislature into special session to allow a vote on ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Finally, the pressure became too great to bear and Governor Roberts issued the call for a special session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

The Shelby County delegation to the state legislature were unreservedly for women's suffrage as was Edward H. Crump, leader of the Shelby County political organization. C.P.J. Mooney, editor of the Memphis Press Scimitar, was also a supporter of women's suffrage. As the fight for ratification had placed a national spotlight on Tennessee, those lobbying for and against descended upon Nashville. Apparently, those opposed to ratification had considerable financial resources at their disposal. The suffragists were not so well off, having to constantly seek small contributions to support their cause. The women enlisted the aid of men to help

pass ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment and a committee was duly formed with former governor Tom C. Rye at its head. Senator McKellar, E. H. Crump, former governor Ben Hooper, a Republican, and editor C.P.J. Mooney were also members of the "Men's Ratification Committee." With Senator McKellar's arrival in Nashville to join the fight came letters and telegrams from those constituents unhappy with his stance. A preponderance of that correspondence seemed to come from Middle Tennessee, many of whom stressed the importance of States' Rights. McKellar spoke at a hearing of the legislature on August 12, 1919 on behalf of ratification and was much pleased when the State Senate passed the amendment 25 - 4. The battle in the House of Representatives was to be much harder.

Joseph Hanover, a thirty-year-old legislator from Memphis, led the fight for ratification in the House and later recalled it was an emotional one. Hanover endured threats upon his life, innumerable insults, and attempts to intimidate him. Governor Roberts became so concerned about Joe Hanover's personal safety he ordered the young legislator be escorted by a Nashville police captain at all times. Years later, Hanover said in an interview the opposition to ratification and was as simple as some men fearing they could not control their spouses if women were granted suffrage.

Some special interests sided against ratification, two of the most powerful at the time were the liquor lobby and the railroads. Major E. B. Stahlman's Banner was the voice of the opposition to ratification, but even he and his newspaper were handicapped by Mrs. Stahlman, who supported suffrage for women as strongly as her

husband opposed it. Mrs. Stahlman proved to be a valuable source of information for pro-ratification activists.

Just about everybody believed the vote for or against ratification in the House would be close and members cancelled vacations and at least one member recovering from an operation was carried into the House Chamber on a stretcher. Speaker of the House Seth Walker, an attorney with close ties to the railroads, tried to delay consideration and surprised nearly everybody when he demanded the ratification resolution be tabled. The House Chamber broke into pandemonium with Walker banging the gavel for all he was worth and insisting upon a recount. Finally, the motion to table was defeated when the vote tied at 48 - 48. A second ballot saw the same result. That was when a young legislator from Mouse Creek in McMinn County, Harry Burn, a Republican, changed his vote, making the tally 49 in favor and 47 opposed. Speaker Seth Walker quickly changed his own vote, making it 50 votes for the ratification resolution. It had been Walker's intention to provide the fiftieth vote in order to move a motion to reconsider, but as it turned out, the Speaker had outsmarted himself. The motion had passed.

The torrent of abuse that had rained down upon Joseph Hanover now washed over young Harry Burn. One accusation was the twenty-four year-old Burn was the recipient of a large bribe. Senator McKellar immediately denounced the notion as both untrue and just plain "silly." McKellar pointed out when Hanover had begged Burn to change his vote, it was "said in the presence of a number of prominent people, among whom was Mrs. Leslie Warner whose name is the

very synonym of all that is honorable, and she says Mr. Hanover's words and actions in the matter were absolutely flawless."

A motion to reconsider by the House was heard and defeated 49 - 9, as thirty-six legislators had scurried off to Alabama in the hopes of preventing a quorum. Those against ratification knew they were beat and when Representative T. J. Riddick of Memphis moved to send the Senate the ratification resolution, the House didn't even bother with a recorded vote, but rather instead held a voice vote.

Governor A. H. Roberts promptly signed the resolution passed by the Tennessee General Assembly and mailed it to U. S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby on August 24, 1920. Two days later, Secretary Colby declared the Nineteenth Amendment added to the Constitution of the United States.

There were political repercussions for many of Tennessee's politicians. Tennessee voted for Republican Warren G. Harding for president in a GOP tidal wave. Women folk did not forget some of the Democrats who had opposed women's suffrage. Governor A. H. Roberts lost to Republican Alf Taylor; Congressmen John A. Moon, Cordell Hull and Democratic nominee Gordon Browning were all defeated by GOP candidates. Senator Kenneth McKellar went on to become Tennessee's longest serving member of the U. S. Senate and enjoyed strong support from women throughout much of his long career. Many women in Tennessee never forgot McKellar's support.

McKellar became one of the first senators to employ a woman as his chief of staff; the senator hired Sue Shelton White as his chief assistant in 1920. Miss White ran the Washington office for Senator McKellar from 1920 - 1926 when she quit. Sue Shelton White returned to Jackson, Tennessee to practice law for a while before returning to work in Washington, D. C. for the Democratic National Committee. Eventually, Miss White worked for the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt to the presidency and was hired by the National Recovery Administration. Miss White finally went to work as an attorney for the Social Security Administration.

Sue Shelton White continued working for Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal government until she was stricken with cancer. Sue White had maintained a home in Alexandria, Virginia with her long-time friend Florence Armstrong. The two lived in a comfortable Cape Cod style brick home. Sue Shelton White died on May 6, 1943. Miss White's remains were cremated and friends gathered for the final funeral rites at 10:00 a.m. on the Saturday following her passing.

A bust of Sue Shelton White has been placed in the City Hall Plaza of Jackson, Tennessee as a remembrance of a determined and great lady.

# Smoky Mountain Athletics Club lease could be terminated

By Mike Steely  
Senior Writer  
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The Smoky Mountain Athletic Club operates a 20-acre rugby field on Western Avenue and is on its 13th year of a 20-year lease with Knox County for the property. Over those years the club has not only hosted numerous rugby events but also put time and effort into developing the open field with fencing, bleachers and restrooms.

The organization promotes the facility as being developed and maintained at no cost to the public.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs wants to rework the lease agreement with the club. Chief of Staff Bryan Hair told the

Knox County Commission that the club has been charging for leasing the field for other events, locking the public out of the site when no events are underway, and making money by using publicly-owned land.

Hair said the club refers to the field as "their property" and a resolution placed before the commission by the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department seeks to renegotiate the contract and charge \$5,000 for each of the seven years remaining in the agreement.

He said that under the revised agreement the county would cover any damage. He cited a "termination clause" in the current agreement, which leases

the field to the club for \$1 per year. Hair said he may be back before the commission next month with the new contract.

"They do a lot for the community," Hair said but added the subleasing of the field is not part of the agreement and would need to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. When asked about other county properties currently being leased by the county, he answered that those agreements are for one year at a time.

Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom referred to the matter as an "emotional issue" and added the club "put a ton of money" into the development of the field. The

location of the rugby field is directly across Oak Ridge Highway from the Karns Senior Center.

In other business the commission passed along a code change to permit the county to receive taxes on short-term home rentals. The city has been collecting a hotel-motel tax from those homeowners who rent out rooms but the county has had no legal way to receive the funds.

Commissioner Richie Beeler wants to look at illegal littering on private property. He said it is "a real problem especially in rural areas." Beeler said the problem is getting worse and sometimes includes large items such as refrigerators and

stoves. Two residents of Hill Road said they must clear up litter there every week or two.

"We need four enforcement officers," advised Commissioner Carson Dailey who has dealt with a huge trash situation in his district over the past few years.

The commission passed the second and final reading of a resolution for competitive tests for eligible candidates within the county sheriff's Merit System Council. Sheriff Tom Spangler spoke in favor of the change, which would vet applicants to the sheriff's department before giving them physical and mental exams. Deputy Law Director David Buuck said the decision is up to the

commission and could save the county about \$100,000 per year.

It was also suggested that a county commissioner be placed as a non-voting member of the Merit System Council. Buuck said that although the commission appoints merit council members it cannot control actions by that group. He said the Merit System Council's duties include protecting officers from political influence.

The commission also discussed approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the board of education and the Knox County Education Association for the next three years.

## Plenty to see at Rock Island

If you've never been to Rock Island State Park, you've missed a very different park that has just about everything you'd expect plus some very special sites.

### A Day Away



By Mike Steely

but end up in a parking lot across from the power station and have to take the stairs and walk the riverside. It's not accessible to wheelchairs and not easy for elderly visitors.

The park's first impression for most people is at the main entrance where you'll see the historic cotton mill building and, across the road, is the castle, or Spring House, that once provided water for the industrial works and resort there. The spring house has the appearance of a castle and may be the second most popular photo snapshot place, aside from the falls, in the park.

There are also several overlooks and other very good places to snap a photo. The little town of Rock Island has a market, post office, a few cafes, and a general store.

Inside the main area of the park are several picnic shelters and tables scattered here and there, a park office and gift shop, cabins, camping sites for 50 RVs plus a tent area, and lots of walking trails. Many trails are posted as difficult. Fishing is permitted there year-round.

If you're thinking about camping or renting a cabin you may want to plan well ahead and contact the park at (931) 686-2471. You can also find the park online.

On the far end of the park is a large beach area where

swimming is allowed. Near the entrance to the park is the Great Falls Dam and TVA hydroelectric plant.

Rock Island State Park has 883 acres and offers planned programs during the summer including canoe floats, wildflower hikes, history tours, talks by park rangers, live animal presentations and much more.

The park is just 15 miles southwest of Sparta and that small town is an interesting place to visit and a worthwhile stop off place for park visitors to eat or stock up on supplies. Sparta has many historic homes and is the burial place of Confederate militia raider Champ Ferguson.

Rock Island is about 90 minutes from Knoxville via I-40 and there's lots to see



The stairs down to the falls at Rock Island State Park are not handicap accessible and can be difficult for some people. The falls are impressive and odd because they don't come from the top of the bluff but from caves in the bluff face. Photo by Mike Steely.

on the way like Monterey's historic Standing Stone, Ozone Falls, the huge flea market in Crossville, and the odd places in

Cookeville including the large elephant statue and a bicycle arch at the Depot Park there.

Get out of the house,

grab your masks, and take the family on an outing. It gives the week a destination day and keeps you safe as well.

The park is located on both sides of the Caney Fork River and on the north side of the river is the Twin Falls, a series of waterfalls coming not from the top of the bluff but from caves on the face of the sheer bluff. Other falls are nearby but that cascade is unbelievable. It's difficult to find access to those falls and you have to leave the park and go back to Rock Island Road, then take Power House Road for a long drive to two parking areas. From there you descend stairs to the riverside walk, and then walk down for the best view of the unusual falls.

Years ago my wife and I visited the park and drove to the falls. Now you can't drive all the way to the falls



"Marching to Victory: East Tennessee's Role in Votes for Women" will be at the East Tennessee History Museum through November 29, 2020.

## ETHS Opens Woman Suffrage Exhibition

Cont. from page 1  
Library's Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.

While visiting the Museum guests can also explore Black & White., Knoxville in the Jim Crow Era which features the stories of African American artists Beauford Delaney,

Joseph Delaney, and Ruth Cobb Brice, with contributions by guest historian Robert J. Booker. The exhibition, which opened in February 2020 has now been extended to provide visitors' access to this important part of East Tennessee's past.

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## Soccer Notes from the scoresheet

By Ken Lay

The 2020 high school girls season is a week old and fans have already been treated to some stellar performances and early pivotal matchups.

Perhaps the best individual offensive performance was turned in by South-Doyle player in the Lady Cherokees' opener against Northview Academy in White Pine Thursday night.

Dunn scored five goals for South-Doyle in a 6-0 victory. Maris Morton also tallied a marker for the Cherokees.

**Lady Rebels rebound after season-opening loss:** After losing a 3-2 decision to Karns to open the 2020 campaign, West High has now won two consecutive matches.

West edged Maryville 2-1 on Thursday night at the Smoky Mountain Cup in Gatlinburg. In that match, Knox County's Lady Rebels got goals from Lily Norton and Phoebe Scott.

On Tuesday, West made the journey to Cookeville and got a shutout victory over the Lady Cavaliers.

Goalkeeper Carissa Carvella notched a clean sheet while Norton and Sam Schroeffel scored goals.

In the match against the Lady Beavers on Monday, Aug. 17, Scott and Katherine Williams tallied for the Lady Rebels.

Karns got a pair of markers from Ryan Branson and another goal from Emma Brumitt.

**Bearden prevails in opener:** The Lady Bulldogs opened the season with a stiff test at home. But they came away with a 2-0 victory Tuesday night at Turner-Allender Field thanks to goals on set pieces by Brinley Murphy, who converted a penalty kick and Becca Roth, who scored with a direct free kick.

Bearden was idle Thursday night but things didn't get any easier for the Lady Panthers, who reached

**Continue on page 4**

## HALLS AND GIBBS KICK OFF 2020 SEASON IN TENNESSEE



PHOTO BY JAMES SPEARS

At 7:07 p.m. EDT Thursday, Halls' Jake Mercantel kicks off to Gibbs to start the 2020 high school football season in Tennessee. The Red Devils won the Region 2-5A opener 31-17.

## Red Devils pull away for 31-17 win

By Steve Williams

For months there was uncertainty on whether there would be a high school football season in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The season is at least off to a start and Gibbs and Halls received the distinction of being the first two teams in the state to begin play Thursday night at Dinzel "Dink"

Adams Field.

How long this season will continue is still uncertain. In fact, just hours before the Eagles and Red Devils kicked off at 7:07 EDT, news broke that a fifth Knox County team - Karns - had been sidelined or had its schedule altered by COVID-19 in Week 1.

For the record, Halls won the game 31-17, pulling away from a

17-all tie early in the fourth quarter.

But after it was over, it was evident on both sides that just playing the game was more important than winning the game on this night.

"It's great," said Halls senior receiver Ty Hurst with a big smile on his face. "For a long time I didn't think I was going to be able to play."

**Continued on page 2**

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL AT A GLANCE

### WEEK 1 SCORES

CAK 28, Daniel Boone 14  
Farragut 25, Bradley Central 21  
Catholic 42, Chuckey-Doak 0  
Central 26, Cleveland 16  
GCA 34, Stone Memorial 14  
Halls 31, Gibbs 17  
Webb 48, Austin-East 14  
Oak Ridge 40, HVA 0  
Powell 26, Beech 24  
Rhea County 20, Carter 14  
TKA 28, Seymour 21  
Fulton at South-Doyle (Sat.)

### WEEK 2 SCHEDULE

(Games start at 7:30 unless noted)

**Thursday**  
Powell at Anderson Co. 7 p.m.

**Friday**

Alcoa at Austin-East  
M'ville at Bearden (canceled)  
Clinton at CAK  
Carter at Campbell County  
Fulton at Central  
Seymour at Gibbs  
Cleveland at HVA  
Halls at Karns  
South-Doyle at GCA  
Gatlinburg-Pittman at TKA  
McCallie at Webb

**Saturday**

Farragut at West, 7 p.m.  
Trinity Christian, Tex. at Catholic, 12 noon

## Webb strikes early, often Rolls over Austin-East 48-14

### Roadrunners dig early hole with miscues on rainy night

By Bill Howard

Webb School of Knoxville and Austin-East Magnet School squared off last year on opening night of the football season at Webb, and the Spartans ground out a 3-0 win.

Friday night at Sam Anderson Field, the Roadrunners and Spartans again paired up to kick off the 2020 season in a non-region game. It would be a long night - literally and figuratively - for A-E.

When, after a rain delay of nearly an hour and a half, the teams finally took the field, A-E's troubles began almost immediately. Numerous turnovers, along with explosive offense from Webb gave the Spartans an easy 48-14 win.

The miscues started right away for the Roadrunners (0-1). A botched snap on the game's first possession gave Webb the ball on A-E's 10 yard line. On their first play from scrimmage, Spartan running back Elijah Bane took it in for the score, and with fewer than two minutes gone in the game, the

**Continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY DANNY DUNLAP

Webb's Elijah Bane was an offensive force for the Spartans in their 48-14 win at Austin-East Friday night in Week 1 of the 2020 high school football season.

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# If this is Shreveport, is it basketball or football?

Knoxville Fulton High School's Ron Widby did it all on the football field and the basketball court during his time at the University of Tennessee, but no two days were more hectic than in mid-December 1965.

It was during the time football and basketball seasons overlapped, and that was definitely the case when the Vols played hoops in Shreveport, La., in the Gulf South Tournament on Friday, Dec. 17, played football in Houston in the Bluebonnet Bowl Saturday afternoon and came back to Shreveport for basketball that night.

A year later, he played in the Sugar Bowl basketball tournament in New Orleans on Thursday and Friday nights and punted in the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 31.

Widby punted for Doug Dickey and played forward for Ray Mears, with his versatility (as well as his endurance) being put to the test. It was quite an itinerary he had: Knoxville to Houston, Houston to Shreveport, Shreveport to Houston, Houston to Shreveport, and back to Knoxville.

The Vols won all three games, defeating Louisiana Tech 71-51 and Centenary 49-43 and Tulsa 27-6 in a driving rainstorm at Rice Stadium. Widby was named tournament MVP.

"People might think it was tiring, but they did a good job of getting me where I needed to go," said Widby. "I was young and in good shape. Both teams and the coaches understood the deal. I went to a different city and put on a different uniform."

Widby was an All-American selection in football in 1966, as the NCAA-authenticated punting champion with a 43.8-yard average on 48 punts. In basketball, he was an All-American selection and SEC player of the year after leading a youthful Vol squad to the SEC title.

Widby averaged 22.1 points and 8.7 rebounds that season, carrying his team through the peaks and valleys of an 18-game conference schedule, playing each school home-and-home. The road was no place for faint hearts in those days.

"It was probably one of the best times I've had in sports," said Widby.

He was the last four-sport letterman at Tennessee, with three varsity letters in football, three in basketball, and one each in baseball and golf.

The 1966-67 season was first in which the Vols played in a new facility called Stokely Athletics Center. Widby was the old hand on the squad, with juniors Tom Hendrix and Tom Boerwinkle being joined as starters by sophomore guards Bill Justus and Bill Hann.

Only Widby had seen significant varsity service. Hendrix and Boerwinkle had come in with Widby in 1963-64 and had redshirted in 1964-65. Other Vols making contributors were Bobby Jack Gunn, Wes Coffman, David Bell, Bill Young and David Bell.

Freshmen were not eligible in those days, so Justus and Hann had not been through the rigors of the SEC. But everything broke right for the Vols and, in the end, the Vols won the conference with a 15-3 record.

The Vols knocked off Kentucky twice that season, in double overtime at Memorial Coliseum in Lexington. Hendrix, a native of Elizabethtown, knocked home two free throws in the waning seconds, and the Vols won 76-57 in Knoxville.

"It was always a thrill to beat Kentucky," said Widby. "The game at Lexington was a tribute to our depth. I got hurt the night before and only scored eight points." For the record, Widby played on Vol teams that won four out of six games against the Wildcats.

In his home finale, Widby scored a school-record 50 points against LSU. That mark lasted 20 years, before Tony White canned 51 against Auburn in 1987, the last year the Vols played in Stokely Center.

"Scoring 50 that night was very exciting," said Widby, calling it "a gift I got from my teammates."

That game gave the Vols no worse than a tie for the SEC title going to Mississippi State the following Monday, and the Vols brought home the brass ring with a dramatic triple-overtime win at the old McCarthy Gym. Widby had 35 points that night as the Vols absolutely refused to lose.

In later years, Widby punted for the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowls V and VI and later for the Green Bay Packers. He played one season for the New Orleans Buccaneers in the old American Basketball Association.

One conclusion is inescapable. Widby was quite an athlete during his days on campus, even if getting to the game site would occasionally prove hectic.



By Tom Mattingly



Tennessee coaches Stu Aberdeen, Ray Mears, Jerry Parker and Jimmy Cornwall cheer on Ron Widby as he runs through the "T" before the 1966-67 season. Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee Sports Information Office.

## Farragut sweeps CAK to give Madden her first win as head coach

By Ken Lay

It took just 40 minutes for the Farragut High School volleyball team to get new head coach Jo Madden her first win.

The Lady Admirals darted out to a fast start and cruised to a 25-10, 25-12 victory over Christian Academy of Knoxville in the 2020 season opener for both schools on Monday, Aug. 17 at CAK.

Farragut opened the match with a huge service run by junior Ashley Hibelink. Her surge gave the Lady Admirals a 7-0 advantage out of the chute and set the tone for the entire match.

Once they seized control of the opening set, the Lady Admirals never looked back. Farragut later opened advantages of 13-3, 19-4 and 24-8 en route to capturing the first set.

Madden didn't keep stats in the match but she had high praise for her team after a brief outing.

"I didn't keep any stats because this wasn't a district match, but they really looked good," said Madden, who was a longtime assistant coach at Farragut under Susan Davidson (who is now at Central) and at Lenoir City under former Karna coach Kynette Williams. "Our goal this year is to get to state."

The second set proved to hold much of the same as the Lady Warriors could never take a lead in the match. The Lady Warriors fell behind 1-0 in the second game before pulling even at 1-1.



Farragut High School junior Volleyball player Kelly Su prepares to serve in the Lady Admirals' opener at CAK early last week. Farragut defeated the Lady Warriors 25-10, 25-12. Photo submitted.

dashed any hopes of a CAK victory as Livi Holley served up nine consecutive points, including a pair of aces, to help the Lady Admirals take a 10-1 lead.

Holley would later have another key run, serving up four straight points (and another ace) to give her team a 21-9 edge.

While the victory was Madden's first as Farragut's coach, the match was

special for many other reasons.

"Our girls have been working really hard for two months and we're extremely proud of them," Madden said. "They looked really good tonight and we're just happy to get a chance to play against another team."

Hibelink agreed. "We're extremely grateful to get the chance to

## Tennessee Adjusts to the New Normal

By Mark Nagi

The 2019 college football season feels like it was another lifetime ago. So much had changed since the Vols went into the victory formation at the TaxSlayer Bowl.

Over the past week or so we've seen college football conferences drop like flies. Led by the Big Ten and the Pac-12, some conferences are planning to play in the Spring.

But the SEC isn't going down just yet. Along with the Big 12 and ACC, the SEC has plans in place to play actual football in a few weeks. The season is set to begin on September 26. It will be a ten game, all-SEC schedule, with a conference championship game to be played on December 19.

This only works, of course, if the member institutions get their ducks in a row. That's going to be difficult, especially with the return of students to campus. Telling teenagers that they should avoid large gatherings (you know, parties) might be an exercise in futility. Without social distancing and the wearing of masks, this season won't happen.

"The Southeastern Conference has taken a very deliberate approach to gather data and make decisions as they learn more about this virus, and how it affects our young people," said Tennessee athletics director Phillip Fulmer. "The health and safety is paramount to our charge to take care of our young people."

Among the guidelines that have been implemented by the SEC: Guests will be required to wear face masks (over the nose and mouth) while inside the stadium and anytime social distancing is not possible. Also, stadiums will be required to install barriers at concessions stands, and 'grab-and-go' options are recommended.

The big question of course revolves around how many fans will be allowed to watch these games in person. The SEC says that attendance will be limited based on local/state guidelines or CDC recommendations for gatherings.

For Tennessee, they are planning to have approximately 25,000 fans or approximately 25% of the 102,455 Neyland Stadium capacity. Decisions

still need to be made about who those 25,000 fans will be.

It's hard to imagine with only 25,000 tickets to be sold that there will be any tickets available to the general public. Donors and students will get the option.

The Vol Walk and the Pride of the Southland Marching Band march to the stadium are expected to also be casualties.

Certainly, this isn't ideal, but it beats the alternative of no football.

"I'm proud of the efforts that the University of Tennessee has made to make sure that we can enjoy games and that we can have one less cancellation in 2020," said Tennessee Governor Bill Lee.

Tennessee's athletics department had nearly depleted its reserve fund a few years back. The coaching buyouts did a number on the bottom line. Fulmer said that he expects the University to lose \$30-\$40 million in revenue when it comes to football. Playing games is crucial to the financial well being of the department. Ticket sales and donations are important, as is the annual \$44.6 million that Tennessee receives from the SEC, mostly as television revenue.

Of course, it's not the top priority.

"My whole thing the whole time is, can we protect our players? It's the most important thing," said Tennessee head coach Jeremy Pruitt. "I don't know the angle here. I can tell you, as a coach, the number one concern for us is the safety of everybody in this building. Do we want to play? Absolutely. We want to play. The kids want to play. But, the number one thing for us is to make sure that we can protect the people around us and that will never change. That will never ever change. It's the way we practice. It's the first thing we think of with any decision that's made with anybody in our program. What's the safety? That's during this pandemic and that was before this pandemic, so that's not ever going to change here."

Mark Nagi is the author of "Decade of Dysfunction," which takes an up-close look at Tennessee's crazy coaching search of 2017. The book is available on Amazon.

Continued on page 4

# Farragut High's Halama enjoys competing against all ages

By Steve Williams

Now in her senior season at Farragut High School, golf standout Lexanne Halama has been getting plenty of competition lately and on different levels.

She enjoys all of it too.

At the end of July she played in an American Junior Golf Association event at Sevierville Golf Club - River Course that included 24 of the nation's top girls from 10 states and finished in a three-way tie for eighth place.

Two weeks ago, the competition for the most part was older, as Halama played in the Tennessee Women's Amateur Championship at the Tennessee National Golf Club in Loudon.

Mikayla Bardwell, a UT Lady Vol sophomore from Lewisville, Tex., won the 54-hole event with a 3-under 71-73-69-213. MTSU junior Catherine Caudill placed second three shots back.

An example of the age range in this event also included a Gallatin High junior placing third and a University of Memphis graduate student tying for fourth.



**Lexanne Halama with her father Scott before the final round in the Tennessee Women's Amateur Championship Aug. 13 at the Tennessee National Golf Course in Loudon. "We are both sporting Illini colors," said Lexanne. Scott was his daughter's caddie throughout the tourney.**

Halama, one of the younger players in the championship field of 40, tied for 11th (77-76-70) and had the second lowest score on the final day.

This past Friday and Saturday, Lexanne was scheduled to play in a high school two-day tourney at Fairfield Glade in Crossville at Heatherhurst Golf Club. After that, she is scheduled to play in

the AJGA Girls Championship at The Furman Golf Club in Greenville, S.C., Sept. 4-7.

"There is definitely a huge difference when playing a high school match versus a larger state match," said Halama after playing in the Women's State Am. "Both do have the same format, which is simply stroke play, but state matches can be much more competitive and host a much larger field. The yardages are also much longer.

"Now, when you get to the regionals and state for high school," continued Lexanne, "it really amps up, and the competitive heat increases dramatically because you are competing against a wider range of teams that have some really great players, but the yardages are still shorter."

Halama is expected to be one of the top contenders in the TSSAA state tournament's Division I Large Class at Manchester in October. She tied for third place in 2019 and led the Lady Admirals to a runner-up showing in the team event.

"Despite the differences, I enjoy any form of competition I can play in because no matter the field or the course, competition is still competition," said Halama. "It's still a match between your game and the course that allows you to test your skills."

Lexanne is still learning and growing as a golfer, too.

"I love being able to play with veteran players because I can see how their experience affects their game," she added. "It's inspiring to watch how calm and composed some veteran players are even when they are in difficult situations. It also gives me a picture of what it takes to play in college and beyond."

Halama, a University of Illinois signee, is looking forward to her senior year of high school, which has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm a little sad that all of my dual-enrollment classes have been moved to virtual instruction, but I'm going to make the most of it, and hopefully next semester, schools will be able to safely

return to normalcy. It's hard to believe that next year at this time I'll be heading up to Champaign-Urbana. It feels like it's gone by so quickly."

Halama attracted a lot of interest from colleges.

"I did have many coaches to reach out with questionnaires, calls, emails, texts, etc.," she recalled. "The main reason I chose Illinois is because that is where I felt that the Lord led me to go."

**LOCAL TIES:** Some familiar local names popped up on the leaderboard at the Tennessee Women's Am.

Shelby Liford, red-shirt freshman at UT from Halls High, shot 75-73-72-220 to tie for seventh.

Former Central High standout Alyssa Montgomery, who was second on the team in scoring average in her freshman season at Virginia Tech in 2019, was in that three-way tie for seventh, shooting 75-70-75-220.

Lipcomb University junior Emily Keeling from Farragut finished 10th with a 74-75-73-222.

## Farragut overtakes Bradley Central

Continued from page 2

High on Saturday, scored first last week and took a 7-0 lead on another 7-yard run by Williams midway through the opening frame to begin his dominance on the night.

Bradley would answer a short time later when Javon Burke threw a 37-yard scoring strike to his twin brother, Javon to make it 7-7 with 5:11 left in the first quarter.

The Admirals regained the lead early in the second stanza on Purcell's 3-yard touchdown plunge.

The Bears pulled even again late in the frame on a 5-yard run by Aiden McCreary,

which closed out the scoring in the first half at the 3:17 mark, making the score 14-14.

Bradley took the ball to open the fourth quarter and fumbled on that possession. Farragut's Trey Nesbitt recovered and the Admirals cashed in the Bears miscue with a 21-yard field goal by Simeon Sharp,

The Bears took their first lead late in the third quarter when freshman Jackson Wilson scored from one yard out.

Farragut pulled to within 21-19 when McCreary was called for intentional grounding in the end zone, resulting in a safety with 11:11 remaining in regulation.

## Notes from the scoresheet

Cont. from page 1

the sectional round of the state playoffs in 2019.

Powell came up on the short end of a 3-2 decision on the road against Farragut.

The Lady Admirals scored a pair of first-half goals and led 2-0 at half-time. Farragut (2-0) made it 3-0 early in the second half before Powell came storming back in a rally that came up just short.

The Lady Admirals opened the match by tallying twice in less than a minute.

Junior forward Lexi Foley scored in the seventh minute and Lauren Leslie, a freshman midfielder, a freshman midfielder, made it 2-0 in the eighth minute.

Foley's second tally of the match came in the 43rd minute.

Jordan Blair (63rd minute) and Autumn Daniels (79th minute) scored

late for the Lady Panthers.

Powell coach Victoria Weinhandl credited her side for hanging tough but was disappointed in the result.

"I thought we were a little flat in the first half and we actually came out better in the second half," Weinhandl said. "We didn't quit, but we're just going to have to take our lumps and learn from them."

**Lady Admirals off to 2-0 start under new coach:** When Kristen Lyons took the reins of the Farragut girls program, she vowed to change the culture and the Lady Admirals have bought in.

They edged Powell Thursday at home and opened the season Tuesday night with a 4-1 District 4-AAA victory over Lenoir City.

Madilyn Stark scored twice. Leslie added a goal and Carly Utterback also

scored for the Lady Admirals.

**Hardin Valley Academy goes 1-0-1 in opening week:**

The Lady Hawks opened their 2020 campaign with a 9-0 District 4-AAA win over William Blount in Maryville and followed that up Thursday with a 2-2 draw at home against Catholic.

**Central splits two:** The Lady Bobcats had mixed results to open the season coming off their first-ever trip to the Class AA State Tournament in 2019.

Central (1-1) downed Union County 5-0 Tuesday at Dan Y. Boring Stadium. Lochlyn Treadway scored twice while Lexie Fordham, Lyric Fowler and Edie Wilds had single goals for Central, which put up a solid effort in a 4-2 loss to Christian Academy of Knoxville Thursday night.



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Central's Abraham Dudley Jr., a 5-10, 220-pounder, breaks tackles and dives into the end zone for a touchdown in the Bobcats' season-opening 26-16 win at Cleveland Friday night.

## TKA Lions answer the call

Cont. from page 2

but were able to schedule replacement games for Week 1.

Powell scheduled a home game against Hendersonville Beech after the Panthers' game at Greeneville was canceled when Greeneville City Schools shut

down all of its athletic programs.

Christian Academy of Knoxville picked up a road game at Daniel Boone, after Volunteer canceled its game at CAK.

**KARNS CLEARED:** After having to cancel its Week 1 game at Walker Valley Friday

over COVID-19 concerns, the Beavers will return to action this week and host Halls.

"We are back to playing Karns," said Halls Coach Scott Cummings Saturday. "The kid had a false positive test. He tested again and was negative."

## Webb strikes early, often

Cont. from page 1

Spartans led 7-0.

A-E gave the ball right back to Webb on its next possession. Another fumble was covered by the Spartans on A-E's 41 yard line. On first and 10 on the 30, senior quarterback Joseph Moore found junior running back Garrett Carnathan for a touchdown. Midway through the first Webb led 14-0, and they were just getting started.

After a Roadrunner punt, Webb took over on their own 28 early in the second quarter. Charlie Robinson replaced Moore and drove the team down to the A-E eight. With about seven minutes left, Robinson ran it in from there, and the Spartan lead was now 21-0.

Webb (1-0) wasn't finished for the half. On its

next possession, on second and goal from the 11, Robinson hit Bane for a touchdown, pushing the lead to 28-0.

A-E finally showed some life late in the half. Quarterback Leshaud Holloway scrambled for 27 yards to midfield, but got hurt on the tackle. He was replaced by receiver Keon Smith, who hit Zeke Nfabyunba for a 31-yard score with six seconds left. The two-point attempt failed, and the half ended 28-6, Webb. A-E at least had a little momentum going into half.

The Roadrunners desperately needed to sustain that surge but were unable to. A punt gave the Spartans the ball on their own 46. Robinson drove them to the A-E three, where Bane took it in for his third touchdown.

With 4:52 left in the third, the score was now 35-6, and the game was long over.

Robinson made it 41-6 with an 11-yard run before the third period ended, triggering a continuous clock, and raising the possibility of calling the game after three quarters. The game was played out in full.

The Roadrunners got their second touchdown in the fourth when Smith, still at quarterback, scored on a 28-yard run. Webb then ran out the clock.

Friday night Austin-East stays home to host regional rival Alcoa. Webb hosts McCallie School out of Chattanooga. The Spartans begin regional play on Sept. 4 when they host Boyd Buchanan.

## Farragut sweeps CAK to give Madden her first win

Cont. from page 3

play against another team. We've all been working so hard," she said. "It would've been heartbreaking to think that would've all been for nothing."

For the Lady Warriors (0-1), there will certainly be better days.

"That was a really good team and our girls had

a little anxiety tonight," Lady Warriors' coach Mike Marcum said. "I'm sure our girls aren't satisfied with our effort tonight and I'm sure we're going to come out and have a spirited practice tomorrow."

Like Farragut, CAK is just glad to have a chance to play and Marcum said

he knows that uncertainty is surrounding the 2020 campaign.

"We're treating every practice like it's our last and we're treating every game like it's our last," Marcum said. "And we want to make sure that if it's our last that we can feel good about it."

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### The Best Medicine

"The first reaction to truth is hatred."  
Tertullian (c 200 AD)

Why do humans seem to preferentially dwell on what they lack rather than what they have? Recently, I've been thinking about positivity and the contrasting negativity, notably seen in the media and politics. Maybe I'm just isolated in Knoxville, a conservative oasis within a flyover "red" state. But, the dystopian speeches of Obama and others at the Democrat convention are not an America I see, even one in the midst of a pandemic and resulting economic downturn.

Life goes on amidst the flames of hatred and chaos promoted by the media and Democrats to elect Joe Biden and his surrogate Kamala Harris. Identity politics does not resonate with me or reasoned people. Harris' presidential campaign was a bust alleging avuncular Joe was a racist. Democrats rejected leftist

Kamala who also "believed the women" accusers of Biden and Kavanaugh. So, why did the Democrat party put her on the ticket? It wasn't ole Joe who made the choice. The radical AOC/Bernie Sanders wing of the Democrats and Joe's handlers made the selection. They wanted a socialist and leftist surrogate for Biden. Someone Americans would never elect.

Dealing with COVID-19 has come to the Ferguson family. No one is sick, but my granddaughter was deemed "exposed" to a kindergarten classmate. Her exposure was defined as being within six feet of someone for ten minutes who tested positive for COVID-19. I asked if my grandson would be similarly quarantined for two weeks. The experts said that quarantine is not required for "exposure to a possible exposure." With this logic I guess I'll be safe at Kroger wearing my mask and socially distancing in the produce

section. Folks, COVID-19 is here to stay, but Americans are resourceful and we will adapt.

I am blessed to be married to an optimist. The lovely Becky sees a glass as half full, whereas I sometimes see one as half empty. She influences me mightily. Honestly, would you rather be around a positive person or someone who is negative and miserable? We all have "gifts differing" as Paul observed and I have my gifts. However, I have jokingly asked many, who would they rather answer the phone? They always smile knowingly and say, "Becky."

Trump's positivity is criticized as are his accomplishments. Truth is elusive but, I choose a positive leadership message of encouragement rather than a negative epistle born of hatred. A cartoon meme was sent to me recently which aptly demonstrated the difference between Trumpism and the Democrats. The cartoon depicted a simplified ballot showing two choices with the caption "Jobs or Mobs."

I haven't heard the Republican speeches, since their convention will be the week of August 24, 2020. But the negativity of the Democrat's convention is in striking contrast to Trump's comments, speeches and rallies. Perhaps I'd prefer Trump's Tweets to be more genteel, but if my wife and life were

impugned like Trump's, I can imagine myself speaking/tweeting indelicately.

Putting aside political lying, sniping and "provocative," I choose to focus on Trump's accomplishments and positivity. Trump has made America Great Again. He has put America first and renounced globalism, preferred by Obama, the Washington swamp, leftists, the media, the UN and the rest of the world. Members of NATO have been forced to meet their obligations and contribute to their protection. And Joe Biden's friend, China, realizes there's a new sheriff in town.

America is in the process of exiting foreign wars under Trump. A notable example is Afghanistan, a country only conquered and pacified by Alexander the Great (c 325 BC). Obama's zoning attack on suburbia has been revoked by Trump. Even the inefficient and notoriously poor business model and service of the postal system has been challenged. Pelosi is recalling Congress from their summer recess to save post office boxes. Apparently, post office boxes have a higher priority than economic relief for Americans.

I was struck that there was no mention of riots, looting and burning in blue cities by the leaders of the Democrat party. After all, it is crime and failing schools which drive people

to suburbia and will prevent big cities from recovering anytime soon, if ever. The so-called soccer moms of suburbia should be pleased that Trump recently repealed Obama's zoning attack on suburbia which mandated "affordable housing" next to developments. Women who object to the president's rhetoric should consider their neighborhood. I wonder if the Obamas would be concerned about an affordable housing development next to their \$11 million estate on Martha's Vineyard?

It is well known that a positive attitude is more conducive to good health than is negativism. Though the objective measurements are sometimes difficult to separate from other confounding issues, there are data showing a positive attitude is associated with the following:

- Increased life span,
- Lower rates of depression,
- Lower levels of distress,
- Greater resistance to the common cold,
- Better psychological and physical well-being,
- Better cardiovascular health and reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease,
- Better coping skills during hardships and times of stress"

(Mayo Clinic)  
There is an aphorism that goes, "laughter is good medicine." Have you ever wondered why the

main performance is preceded by a "warm-up" act? It so happens that laughter is infectious. The same phenomenon is observed with music, where warm-up comedians and bands are used to prime the audience, so to speak.

A new study from researchers at the University of South Australia caught my eye. They found that the very act of "smiling can trick your mind into being more positive." The principal researcher found that when you "forcefully practice smiling, it stimulates the amygdala—the emotional center of the brain—which releases neurotransmitters to encourage an emotionally positive state."

I've noticed that the panels and commentators on CNN and MSNBC rarely smile; they are usually frowning and project drama and seriousness. All I see and hear are unhappy and dysfunctional people. Whether they're trashing Trump or not - which invariably they are - it makes me avoid them.

So, are you ready to take the cure? Turn off the tube, open the good book of hope where "a cheerful heart is good medicine" (Proverbs 17:22) and try to smile, even if "your heart is aching."

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# The not so natural act of forgiveness

We have likely all been hurt by the actions of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. You have likely hurt someone else by your actions, either intentionally or unintentionally. When we get our feelings hurt or have been harmed by the actions of others, forgiveness is a real challenge. Jesus understood how hard it is to forgive and bless your enemy. In fact, Jesus quoted: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" The natural thing is to love your



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

friends and show loyalty to them, and you hate your enemies.

For the most part, forgiveness as we know it did not exist in ancient Greece and Rome. John Ortberg pointed out that the ancients had various means to appease anger

and reestablish relationships, but those means were dictated more by standards of honor, status, and shame than by sin, atonement and grace. So, the moto of the day in ancient times and still today is: help your friends and harm

your enemies. Jesus said something different: "I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:43-45).

When it comes to forgiving people, I often get the question: "Am I expected to forgive someone who is unrepentant?" Well, forgiveness is different from reconciliation. Forgiveness is the process of letting go of my right to hurt you back. It doesn't mean we are best friends with complete trust. Reconciliation requires

both parties who sincerely want to come back into relationship.

Ultimately, both forgiveness and reconciliation boils down to love. We are commanded to love both the repentant person who hurt me as well as the unrepentant person who hurt me. Listen to what Jesus said: "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!" (Luke 6:32-33).

As humans, we tend to divide the world up into an "us vs. them" mentality.

Jesus came for all sides. On the cross, Jesus didn't attack or condemn his accusers and executioners; instead, he prayed, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they are doing." Jews and Samaritans had a long history of hatred for each other, yet Jesus treated the Samaritans with amazing love. Jesus didn't just love people from his side of the tracks. He loved people from the other side too. Jesus miraculously fed both the Jews and the Gentiles (Mark 6 and 8). There is a story found in all four gospels during the arrest of Jesus. Peter pulled out his sword and aims for the head of Malchus, the servant of

the High Priest. Malchus ducks and it removes his ear. Jesus picks the bloody ear up and puts it back in place. Imagine the shock of Malchus. The guy whom he came to help arrest healed him. Why would Jesus do that? Because Jesus loved even him. Jesus demonstrated that we don't have to be ugly towards others to solve our problems. There is the Jesus way. The way of love. The not so natural way of forgiveness. Jesus followers should take his lead and do the same. What a much-needed testimony this would make for the Kingdom of God.

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