



The Knoxville FOCUS

www.knoxfocus.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE - \$88.88/YEAR

Online Auction
Friday, November 20
See photos at
fountaincityauction.com
Fountain City Auction
(865)474-9931

FREE
Take One!
November 16, 2020

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

COVID-19 Weekly Focus

BE SAFE · WASH YOUR HANDS · WEAR A MASK · SOCIALLY DISTANCE

2019 Knox County Total Population ¹	Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases ²	% COVID-19 Cases/ Total Population	Total COVID-19 Deaths ²	% COVID-19 Deaths/ Total Population
470,313	15,086	3.2%	128	.00027%

SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 11/14/2020.

Birdie's Boutique offers trendy fashions

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

"New and trendy" is the theme chosen by the two partners for Birdie's Boutique. The new women's fashion and accessory shop will hold its Grand Opening on Black Friday, November 27, which follows the soft opening last week that saw friends and family shopping and making suggestions.

Birdie's Boutique is an idea created by Kim Longmire and Stephanie Bayne. The unique shop, located on Tazewell Pike across from Hardee's Restaurant in Fountain City, features new clothing for women and even has a section of young boy's clothing.

Continued on page 6



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

Stephanie Bayne and Kim Longmire (right) are joined by Birdie's Boutique manager Monya Raby. The shop features new and trendy women's clothing along with a section of small boy's clothing. The shop is at 3000 Tazewell Pike, across from Hardee's in Fountain City, and will have a grand opening the day after Thanksgiving.

COVID-19 discussions prevalent at KCS Board Meeting

By Ken Lay

The COVID-19 pandemic was a topic front and center at the Knox County Board of Education's regular session meeting Wednesday night and while the board didn't change any of its policies, the Coronavirus generated plenty of discussion among members.

It was board chair Susan Horn that brought the item to the table as she questioned if it was time for a change in Knox County Schools' quarantine policies.

Currently, a student or staff member at KCS must remain quarantined for 14 days once being exposed to COVID 19. Many students have been quarantined multiple times since the schools reopened their doors in late August.

Horn said that parents were concerned because so many students were being quarantined despite not showing any symptoms of the virus.

"We have students who are scared of death of being quarantined," Horn said at the school board meeting at the Andrew Johnson Building. "Now that we have more data, it's time for us to consider whether we need to continue on the path we're on or make a change."

Board members Patti Lou Bounds and Mike McMillan appeared to support making a change. Bounds said that more than 5,000 students had been quarantined with 26 testing positive for COVID-19 after the fact and McMillan suggested that the quarantine period be shortened to 10 days.

Continued on page 2

City, County Honor Veterans

By Focus Staff

Last week's Veterans Day was not memorialized with a parade but city and county officials did their part to thank those that have served.

City Mayor Indya Kincannon spoke at a ceremony at the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial at Worlds Fair Park and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs released the following statement:

"Any time we can remember and honor our veterans, it's important that we do so," said Mayor Jacobs. "We live in the Volunteer State and we should take time to appreciate those who volunteered to serve in each branch of our military. American liberty endures because generations of brave men and women have

Continue on page 6



Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon (at podium) joined some of the city's military veterans Wednesday morning to honor them and all veterans. She read a Veterans Day Proclamation at the ceremony in the World's Fair Park Veterans Memorial. The mayor recognized members of each military branch and noted that over 1500 veterans currently work for the city of Knoxville. She said the veterans bring ethics, hard work and training to the city. Photo courtesy of Councilwoman Lynne Fugate.

Planning commission approves Angelic Ministries property rezoning

Controversial next step to follow?

By Bill Howard

One of the many challenges cities and communities face is how to handle those residents whose problems leave them unable (or unwilling) to function well enough as independent adults. The homeless come to mind, as do those with addiction, mental health problems, or an inclination toward crime.

While this matter was not directly what the

Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission addressed at its monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12, it was secondarily relevant.

On the agenda was a request by the architectural firm of Seth D. Schweitzer to rezone a 4.27-acre tract of land at 3420 Zion Lane in Commission District 6. The current zoning designation is PR (Planned Residential); the

requested change was to A (Agricultural).

The staff recommendation was to approve the rezoning because "it is consistent with the Northwest County Sector Plan and with the surrounding development."

Representing Schweitzer was Parker Bartholomew of Angelic Ministries. The reason the matter was more than a simple rezoning of a tract of land is

because Angelic Ministries wants to build a housing facility for men trying to get their lives back together there. That request would presumably come next month once the rezoning was secured.

Kevin Shay lives near the property and spoke for the opposition. His objections to the project were numerous.

"Based on Angelic Ministries' own description, this boarding house is essentially a rehabilitation facility," said Shay. "It was

described as a place where detoxed addicts who could pass a drug test would be housed when they are not ready to enter society. I concluded that this facility is a danger to my community and to my family."

The facility's lax oversight especially concerned Shay. "Angelic Ministries stated that the residents could leave if they wanted to," he said. "If a resident became agitated, Angelic Ministries wouldn't and couldn't stop them from walking off the property."

Further, Shay sees the facility as a possible threat to the neighborhoods' kids. "My subdivision is packed with dozens of children who play outside," he said. "I see this rehabilitation facility as a safety risk and a detriment to my investment in this area."

Bartholomew then addressed the commission. "We will not house any violent or sex offenders," he said. "This is not a rehab facility. In order to even get in the facility,

Continue on page 4

PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION
Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9:00 a.m.
Bring this ad to auction and choose 1.) \$25 off your buy fee OR 2.) We'll sell your vehicle for free. Good for 1 vehicle per person.
Bid live or online! Everyone is welcome to come out and preview Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

POWELL Auction & Realty
6729 Pleasant Ridge Road Knoxville, TN 37921
(865) 938-3403 TNFL735 WWW.POWELLAUCTION.COM

The REAL ESTATE FIRM
120 B Lynnwood Dr.
Knoxville, Tn. 37918
Thinking of Buying or Selling?
Contact
Deborah Hill-Hobby, Affiliate Broker
865/207-5587 Mobile
865/770-4030 Office

ROBBINS CLEANERS
Comforters, Drapes, Quilts & More
In Fountain City
Full Service Dry Cleaner & Laundry
688-2191 www.halls-cleaners.net

Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
Publisher
publisher@knoxfocus.com

Bill Dunn

Congratulations to former State Representative Bill Dunn who has been named as senior advisor to Tennessee's Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn. Dunn just retired from the Tennessee General Assembly where he served for almost 30 years. Bill Dunn has a thorough understanding of the legislative process, as well as a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge that should serve Commissioner Schwinn well. Dunn is an excellent choice for the position and should be an asset to not only Penny Schwinn but also the administration of Governor Bill Lee.

Of course there has been much gnashing of teeth and wailing by the teacher unionists and their allies because of Dunn's persistent support for choices for parents and students, as well as vouchers. Unionists urged board of education member Patti Bounds into the race to represent the 16th District in the state House of Representatives. Bounds had run twice for the board of education without opposition, causing some of her backers to mistake that for universal popularity. Patti Bounds was presented as an opponent of vouchers after Governor Bill Lee's voucher legislation narrowly passed the Tennessee House of Representatives;

the sponsor of the bill in the House was Bill Dunn. When Dunn announced his retirement, unionists crowded he had been driven out of the House by the prospect of running against Patti Bounds. Bill Dunn had intended to retire from public office for sometime and his many friends and supporters coalesced around the candidacy of County Commissioner Michele Carringer in the Republican primary. Bounds had not only never encountered an opponent in her political career, she had never run before in a partisan primary. Carringer won easily. Worse still, many of the people who lured Bounds into the race to oppose/succeed Bill Dunn were not Republicans, much less have a solid grasp of Republican politics.

Another result of the November election was to fill the seat of Terry Hill, a former member of the Knox County Board of Education, who had been elected to the county commission. Hill's seat was won by Betsy Henderson who said she would work hard to have the voices of parents heard. That alone was something of a novelty on the board where one hears more about teachers, administrators and school employees than students and families. Then lo and behold, Betsy Henderson, just days after the election, stated her support for vouchers. I heard some of the exploding heads all the way to my office.

Not Really A Democrat?

It's pretty clear a fight is looming for the heart and soul of the Democratic Party and those who wish to use it to get where they want to go. By that I mean there is a fight between the far left crazies who are really

socialists and the rest of the Democrats, most of whom seem so afraid of them they will barely speak above a whisper. Some Democrats have publicly groused the failure of the "Blue Wave" predicted by political pollsters failed to materialize precisely because Democrats were seen as being too far to the left and promoting a socialist agenda. No less than Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez retorted had every Democrat run as a "progressive" (i.e. socialist) the Democrats and their Blue Wave would have won a resounding victory in both houses of Congress.

You might wonder what any of that has to do with Knoxville or Knox County? Plenty as it happens. Matthew Park, recent candidate for the State House of Representatives, formed ChangeTN, supposedly to push the progressive agenda. Park, who had a record of voting Republican before landing in Knoxville and getting the bug to run for office, ran second to Sam McKenzie, who defeated Park and incumbent Representative Rick Staples for the Democratic nomination in the 15th District. Running second never won any office for anybody, but Matthew Park deserves some credit for being upfront about his intentions. Park describes ChangeTN as a "non-partisan political organization" to "become involved in the internal elections of the state Democratic Party." Wait, I thought it was non-partisan? Evidently, not that non-partisan. Matthew Park readily admits his purpose is to hijack the Tennessee Democratic Party as a socialist tool. Well, not quite in language that candid; what he does say is "The Tennessee Democratic Party is a tool that should be used by progressives to push forward our agenda." Park calls for a state party

that "fights to win municipal seats to build a bench for the future." What I interpret that to mean is electing progressives locally as Democrats for City Council and the like so they will have a jumping off point to launch candidacies for higher office.

From his decidedly shaky non-partisan perch, Matthew Park now proposes to vet the candidates for state chair of Tennessee's Democratic Party. Park has issued a questionnaire for prospective candidates to fill out and return so that he might better determine if that person is progressive enough. Pretty cheeky for a fellow who has voted Republican and never won a race in his life unless he was the Homecoming King in middle school. Park may be attempting to help failed congressional candidate Rene Hoyos, who has been saying for the last two years the Second Congressional District was turning Blue; she also told a group of Democratic women she and Congressman Tim Burchett were in a "statistical tie" just before the election. You know the results as well as I do; Congressman Tim Burchett improved his performance from two years ago and Rene went the other direction and as I've said, I like her going in that direction.

There is speculation Hoyos has given up her long term plan to keep running for Congress until the Second District turns Blue or the Republican Party is outlawed, whichever comes first. Instead, there is speculation Hoyos is eyeing a job in a Biden administration or perhaps becoming Chair of the Tennessee Democratic Party. Tennessee Democrats could certainly do worse and Rene could always hire somebody with an actual grasp of math and make a pledge not to rehire

her congressional pollster.

Speaking of Socialists . . .

Speaking of socialists, the City Council Movement is on the march again. Five seats will be on the ballot next year as Knoxville voters select their council people in 2021. And don't think this is my imagination; there are already two self-described Democratic socialists on the Knoxville City Council now.

The city election cycle typically begins just after the November elections in even-numbered years. The City Council Movement has certainly not disappointed us as they have issued a blast announcing their platform for the coming elections. Bold as brass, they call for abolishing the police. Yes, you read that right, these folks want to abolish the police department altogether. Evidently they are willing to skip defunding the police and go directly to abolishing the Knoxville Police Department. They also call for Knoxville taxpayers to pick up the tab to provide attorneys for those folks being evicted. This is yet further evidence the CCM doesn't even know what it is talking about. It refers to "eviction courts"; there are no "eviction courts" as there are criminal courts or traffic court, for instance. Evictions are heard in Civil Sessions courts and do you imagine for a moment one attorney could handle the case load? Lord, it would take a herd of lawyers to meet that demand, all paid for out of your tax dollars. I can only imagine the delight the socialists would take in considering how landlords would be forced to pay higher taxes to subsidize their own renters countering them.

The City Council Movement says Knoxville should

resort to other alternatives aside from calling the police. I reckon a social worker would come to your house if your home was broken into and you were robbed. Maybe he or she would write a report about what was stolen, but of course you are privileged and it was stolen by someone under privileged so just shut the hell up and move on.

Abolishing the police is a fantasy, but a dangerous one. Minneapolis has seen crime soaring after demoralizing and demonizing its own police department. Not surprisingly, homicides have risen in Minneapolis substantially. I know, it is almost impossible to believe reducing the budget of a police department didn't lead to a world positively bursting with butterflies and unicorns, but rather robbery, mayhem and murder. Who would believe it? Who could have foreseen that possibility? Why anybody with a functioning brain.

Unfortunately, many of the council incumbents are too afraid to speak out and seem to believe by appeasing the City Council Movement they can avoid opposition. They might as well believe they are going to grow up and marry the Tooth Fairy.

There is a lesson for council candidates in the election of Amelia Parker and the defeat of Amy Midis. Midis waited until Election Day to discuss Parker's socialist agenda; it was too late. In the initial primary Midis, Parker and former county commissioner Bob Thomas won roughly a third of the votes each. In the general election, many Republicans either stayed home or simply skipped Midis, which caused the election of Amelia Parker.

Appeasement rarely ever works for those attempting to do the appeasing.

Dr. Buchanan: COVID-19 probably with us forever

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The requirement of wearing a mask inside public and private buildings in Knox County will continue with no set expiration date and the 11 p.m. curfew on serving alcohol has been extended until the end of November. The Board of Health is also beginning to talk about issuing other mandates if COVID-19 continues to spike in Knox County.

Amid the huge increases in cases, testing and deaths, opposition to the authority of the Board of Health continues. Although two proposals to limit the board were introduced and then withdrawn at the Knox County Commission, the very vocal opposition from some citizens demands some control of board mandates.

While cases continue to increase locally and in the state, Representative Jason Zachary has introduced House Bill (HC0007) to limit the Board of Health. Co-sponsored by Representative Jeremy Faison of Cosby, it specifies that the county mayor has the authority to establish and implement health policies that affect the entire county during a county-wide health

emergency.

Three of Five Benchmarks are RED

Dr. Martha Buchanan told the Board of Health meeting Tuesday afternoon that three of the five benchmarks have increased in severity to be designated as RED and that hospital capacity is in the YELLOW, or cautious, level.

"What can we do?" she asked the board.

Board Chairman Dr. James Shamiyeh said, "This is the first time we've got three Reds." He noted that during the past month the number of positive cases has been greater than 10% which he called "tenaciously steady." He asked, referring to the increase, "What's down the pike with the holidays coming?"

Board member Ani Roma, appointed by the Knox County Commission as a citizen member, said she is concerned about the number of people visiting bars in Knoxville while picking up their UT students. Dr. Patrick O'Brien, a former bar owner, confirmed that the day before Thanksgiving is the number one day for bar

business.

Dr. Buchanan reminded the board there is currently no limit on crowd size but added that community concerns should be considered.

"Our community probably won't tolerate any additions but we need to be consistent on the Five Core actions," said Dr. O'Brien. He added that most people are abiding the mask mandate.

Dr. Shamiyeh said that wearing a mask and keeping a social distance help, adding, "We need to have both."

Buchanan said the COVID-19 "will probably be with us forever."

Asked about the success of a proposed COVID-19 vaccine Buchanan said, when it arrives in late November or December, it will "trickle out" and not be available to the general public until the summer or fall.

Some bars are not obeying curfew

Buchanan said there have been 24 complaints in the past two weeks, many of them coming from restaurants and bars that abide by the regulations while others do not. She said the violating businesses "are not too

far from (UT) campus."

Dr. Marie Hurt said those businesses following the rules are "frustrated by those who do not."

"To date no citations have been issued," she said, explaining the health department has no authority to do so. She said she has talked with Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and noted the city is willing to enforce the mandates.

She said that some businesses feel they were "unfairly targeted" but added there is "ample evidence and data" to justify the restrictions. She then moved the motion to continue the curfew.

The board voted 8-1 with Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, as usual, voting "No."

The board then discussed inviting a mental health expert to visit and speak at a future meeting and also talked about making presentations, graphs and other information available online to the members prior to meetings. Also discussed was limiting the public forum portion on a monthly agenda and whether or not the board members may interact with speakers.

Pediatric Consultants
North, Halls and Maynardville
Comprehensive Primary and Subspecialty Health Care For Infants, Children, and Adolescents

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS AT ALL LOCATIONS

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8am-4:30pm
For an Appointment or Patient Referral, Call Us Today.

www.pediatricconsultants.net

223-6561
4005 Fountain Valley
HALLS

687-2000 **992-9977**
100 Tech Center 147 Oakland Lane
NORTH KNOXVILLE MAYNARDVILLE

Dr. David Eakes Dr. Maria Javier Dr. Lynn Baker

COME JOIN US IN WORSHIP!

CHRISTUS VICTOR

9:30 AM- TRADITIONAL SERVICE
6:00 PM- MODERN SERVICE

4110 Central Avenue Pike
Knoxville, TN 37912

865-687-6622 www.cvlcknox.org

Eagle Pride

Fall-----Football-----Fun!!!
It is one of the most exciting seasons of the school year. The best part of the Gibbs Eagles' season may have come during the Gibbs High School (GHS) Homecoming 2020 activities. GHS Principal Jason Webster shared about

one of the many "good things happening in our school and community."

Four outstanding GHS homecoming candidates raised a huge sum of money--over \$10, 000! They wanted to donate the funds to a worthwhile cause and did not have to look far to find one. The candidates decided on the Corryton Hospitality Pantry (CHP) just up the road in the Corryton Community.

"The Corryton Hospitality Pantry



Picture of CHP Coordinator Bob Martin; Gibbs Homecoming Candidates Olivia Self, McKenzie Selby, Lauren Johnson, and Ali Rae Johnson; and Gibbs High School Principal Jason Webster.

is proud to be the beneficiary of this generous donation from the Gibbs High School Homecoming Queen Candidates and all of the many contributors to their efforts," CHP Coordinator Bob Martin said. "This donation will provide a very large quantity of food for pantry patrons. All of us, especially the recipients of assistance from the community pantry, have certainly experienced a difficult and uncertain year. Many thanks as

well to Gibbs High School Principal, Mr. Jason Webster, for supporting this special event," Martin added. Focus readers may recall that Bob Martin is also known as the retired principal of Corryton Elementary School.

Even during a pandemic, these young people at GHS are making a difference. Way to go, Eagles!

Words of Faith: "And be ye kind one to another . . ." Ephesians 4:23

What now?

It's been more than a week since the presidential election occurred, but we're still waiting for one candidate to concede and another to begin the transition process. Some Americans are angry and deny the outcome of the election. They declare that President Trump lost because of voter fraud, even though Republican officials state no such activities occurred. Biden supporters are antsy for him to put his team together and fume that he is being denied the chance. The fact is that on January 20, 2021, Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the 46th president. My question is now what?

Our country holds the horrible distinction of being the one in most danger from COVID-19. The number of daily cases is surging toward 200,000 per day, and death tolls are about to explode. What is the leadership at all levels willing to do? Yes, a shutdown is a terrible thing, something that no one wants. Vaccines might well be within our reach in just a few months. Are leaders willing to demand things that will require shutdowns, curfews, and masks? Will citizens who understand that taking control of the virus by following these dictates abide by them? Do we have the courage and willpower to do those things that will save the lives of strangers, family, and even ourselves?

Many are suffering financially as the pandemic continues to spread at supersonic speeds. Before the election, Republicans and Democrats failed to work out a deal that would provide relief for small businesses and individuals. They let polarization reign as folks struggled to pay utilities, meet mortgages, and buy food. With this new president and congress, will our elected officials put



By Joe Rector
jorector@comcast.net

aside their differences and compromise to develop a plan to help others? Yes, our deficit is blown, but the truth is that if help isn't provided for those in need, we might not have a country that runs a deficit.

As important are the relationships between people. In times before, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents worked for their preferred candidates. The competition was intense, and sometimes tempers flared. However, after the elections, people went back to their lives. No matter how much they disagreed in politics, folks remained friends.

These days, all sides dig in and declare war. Their comments are meant to enrage and offend opponents. Closed minds refuse to see any good points of the opposite side. After the election, as occurred in 2016, people are angry. They refuse to accept defeat and get on with life. Friends who might have supported another candidate are dismissed with slurs and taunts.

Can we Americans agree that what makes us best is the common ground we can find? We are a great country that has always fought enemies that tried to bring us down. That is happening right now, but the irony is that WE are the enemy. We are fighting each other. Why? The extremes of both sides seem to whip up the dissatisfaction. Why doesn't the majority who live in the middle take the lead and tell the extremes to take a hike? Let's declare that the U.S.A. is a country where the majority rules? Let's stop the fighting and return to the better parts of us that can help our country survive a pandemic, unemployment, and extremist views. The time has come to regain our title as the beacon of freedom and democracy.

East Towne Mall zoning on City Agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday and may give a final stamp-of-approval for the zoning change for the former East Towne Mall property. The request, from Hillwood Enterprises LP, would change the zoning from Regional Mixed Use to Light Industrial.

That would permit the buyer to demolish the mall buildings and build a huge e-commerce distribution center. The company has been working with the city and neighborhoods to redraw some of the

proposed facility, limit lighting, create an entrance for tractor trailer trucks, and build one large facility rather than two.

The second reading will likely be approved and will include three agenda items, one of which would amend the North City Sector plan. Hillwood is planning to purchase the four properties that make up the closed mall. The purchase will apparently include Hillwood paying off the back taxes due from the current owners to the city and county.

The council will also consider a second reading of a

rezoning request for 4625 Asheville Highway, an abandoned motel. Carl Lansden is asking to change the property from Office to General Commercial, demolish the old hotel and build a low-rent apartment complex.

Knoxville's effort to move to renewable energy is reflected in a proposal to apply for a \$1.4 million grant with the state and federal government to purchase an electric bus overhead charging infrastructure, with a city match of \$350,000.

A related agenda item would authorize the mayor to execute an agreement

with New Flyer of America Inc. for the electric bus and charging project, increasing the bus price for by \$26,970 and upping the installation by \$9,820.

Hudson Materials Company is asking to change the zoning of its 405 West Oldham Avenue property from Industrial Mixed Use to Heavy Industrial.

The council may also approve the mayor to submit proposals for a payment from the Emergency Solutions Grant for recovery of funds used during COVID-19 and the Housing and Community Development Plan.

It's time to make your money

Thrive!

Open Online or In-Branch

Free Checking for ages 60 plus!*

INTRODUCING:

Thrive

CHECKING

At SouthEast Bank, we realize this is the best time of your life and you don't need to waste your money on paying banking fees. Plus, you could ENJOY a higher interest rate on our CD Specials!

SouthEast
b a n k

SouthEastBank.com

Member
FDIC

Knoxville • Bearden • Farragut • Fountain City • Hardin Valley

*The Thrive checking account is open to customers who are 60 years old and older. Higher interest rate offer is for Thrive customers only. See your local branch or call 1-844-SEBANKS (1-844-732-2657) for more details.

Planning commission approves Angelic Ministries property rezoning

Cont. from page 1

they have to pass a drug test. Just to be frank, this is something people say about us to stir up fear."

Bartholomew pointed out the societal pervasiveness of the problem, and that it had to be confronted. "This is a problem that is in every single community everywhere," he said. "Sooner or later we're gonna have to figure out where we can put these facilities."

"If it's not able to go in this location, I don't know where it could go. The problem we're dealing with in this society is not getting less. It's getting greater. If we're gonna treat these people like lepers, it's gonna be very difficult to get them back on their feet."

At this point, Commission Chair Pat Phillips reminded his colleagues that the matter at hand was strictly about rezoning the property, not about what future use would be made of it. Several commissioners spoke up.

Said Mike Crowder: "Angelic Ministries has always been of great service to our community. I've always tried to support

them. But sometimes in our zealotry to do a good service, we look past the people we may hurt. This doesn't need to happen in this community."

"I think that as Planners we would be well served to look at this as a zoning and forget the potential different things that could come," said Scott Smith. "If it comes back to some kind of use, we can ask questions, and put conditions and evaluate that use."

"I can't see any reason why we wouldn't rezone it to Agriculture, but I would certainly vote against a drug rehab going in there on use on review," said Dick Graf.

Jeff Roth also agreed the facility Angelic wants to build wouldn't be proper, but that rezoning should occur.

Sandra Korbek encouraged the commission to refrain from assuming any outcome on the property until the time arrives.

The commission voted 13-2 to approve the rezoning. Bartholomew can now seek permission to build the housing facility.

The next meeting is Dec. 10.

A Few Tennesseans of Note

Tennesseans and the New Deal

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Few people today can imagine the suffering during the Great Depression; the Depression brought hardship, hunger and homelessness to millions of people throughout the United States. At the same time, many Americans were plagued by the terrible dust storms caused by a drought, accompanied by winds, that lasted for seven years. The drought left much of America's once-fertile farmland dry, cracked, and barren. The winds carried the dust, literally choking people. One woman recalled after washing the dishes, the dust would accumulate inside the cupboards and they would have to be washed yet again before the next meal. The drought made life even more difficult in Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, North and South Dakota, as well as Oklahoma. It was yet another burden folks had to carry along with the Great Depression.

Joblessness was rampant and there were no social safety nets at the time; there was no welfare, no food stamps, no Social Security. In fact, most homes didn't have electricity. People being forced out of their homes was commonplace. Perhaps the most poignant story I recall about the Depression and the desperation it wrought was that told by Ohio U. S. senator Stephen M. Young who wrote in his memoir about a young boy whose family was so hungry they killed and ate the boy's pet rabbit, which so upset and depressed the little fellow he hung himself. Perhaps the scarcest commodity during the Depression was hope, but millions of Americans found cause for hope

came in the form of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The suffering had been intense during the administration of the austere Herbert Hoover. The "Great Engineer" had been elected overwhelmingly in 1928 and was summarily ejected from the White House by a great majority of Americans who desperately wanted homes, food, and jobs.

The election of Franklin D. Roosevelt followed twelve years of Republican rule and the newly elected president had been accompanied by Washington by a majority of his Democratic Party in Congress. Millions of Democrats across the country petitioned their Members of Congress for help in securing jobs. It was no different in Tennessee; the Volunteer State's senior United States senator, Kenneth D. McKellar, had served in the Senate since 1917 and was the first person ever to be elected to the U. S. Senate from Tennessee by the people. McKellar's junior colleague, Cordell Hull, had been in the Senate for only a couple of years when he was

nominated by President Roosevelt to serve as Secretary of State. Nathan L. Bachman, a former justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, was appointed by Governor Hill McAlister, to serve until the 1934 special election. It was Senator McKellar who had the most to say about federal jobs in the myriad of alphabet agencies that sprang up throughout Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, yet Cordell Hull's State Department served as a popular destination for would-be diplomats. Senator McKellar happily promoted the aspirations of thousands of Tennesseans for work, as well as supported innumerable projects, which provided work for folks back home. McKellar was especially delighted by the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which gave relief from flooding, as well as jobs and affordable electricity for hundreds of thousands of people in Tennessee.

A few of the folks who ended up in the foreign service of the government of the United States were Edward Albright, John Draper Erwin, and Ashley Sowell. The three were very different men in many respects, but all three had a few things in common. All of them were newspapermen by trade and all three were Democrats.

Edward Albright was from Sumner County lived in Gallatin. Albright also dabbled in politics and had helped manage then-congressman K. D. McKellar's first bid for the Democratic nomination for the U. S. Senate in 1915. When McKellar first entered the Senate, his first secretary was Edward Albright.

Albright held a law degree but owned and published the Sumner County News. Albright had run an ill-fated race for Congress to represent Tennessee's Fourth District when Cordell Hull had left his seat in the House of Representatives to seek election to the Senate. Albright ran a distant second to J. Ridley Mitchell, a popular Circuit Court judge from Cookeville. Still, Albright had the strong support of the people who knew him best; he carried his own Sumner County with 4,045 votes to 688 votes combined for his two opponents. Edward Albright's relationships with Kenneth McKellar and Cordell Hull proved to be enough to allow him to be named as the United States' minister to Finland. When Albright's appointment as minister to Finland was announced, the Knoxville Journal noted he was "one of the best known weekly newspaper editors in the state." Having been a strong supporter and resident of Cordell Hull's Fourth District it was believed the Secretary of State "wished to recognize his friend with a



ACME PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION.

Edward Albright, U. S. Minister to Finland, was showing the ravages of the lung cancer that eventually killed him in this 1937 photo.

suitable diplomatic appointment," which also pleased Senator McKellar to no end. According to the Nashville Banner, Edward Albright left for his diplomatic post in Finland, in August of 1933, sailing from the United States and landing in Plymouth, Great Britain before going on to London, Paris, Berlin and then to Helsingfors. Evidently the bachelor ambassador was well-liked in Finland but the country's harsh winters proved to be too much for the Tennessean, who asked to be posted to another country, preferably one with a warmer climate. Secretary Hull was sympathetic and it was announced President Roosevelt had named Edward Albright as minister to Costa Rica. Unfortunately, Edward Albright would never take up his new post.

Minister Albright was gravely ill. Evidently, Edward Albright was never told he was suffering from advanced lung cancer. Albright entered a Nashville hospital May 24, 1937 after feeling ill at his apartment in Gallatin and failing to improve. On May 25, 1937, the Nashville Tennessean published a succinct story saying Albright's condition was "better" after having been admitted to Barr's Infirmary in critical condition. The newspaper stated Albright had been under the care of a "lung specialist" while in Washington, D. C. Apparently whatever improvement Edward Albright experienced did not last long as he died that same day. An editorial in the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle hailed Albright's career as a journalist and diplomat. The Leaf-Chronicle was glad Albright had returned "from a far land" to die amongst his people and in Middle Tennessee where he had been born, worked and lived throughout his life.

Ashley Sowell was a newspaperman and a middle Tennessean who also enjoyed a diplomatic career. Sowell was the son of F. C. Sowell, a well-known minister of the Church of Christ in Columbia, Tennessee. Sowell had risen from

copy boy to editor and publisher of the Maury Democrat. Sowell had bought the newspaper from the heirs of Ed and Lynch Perry who had first employed him as a lad. By 1933 Sowell was petitioning Senator K. D. McKellar for help in securing a federal job. Franklin D. Roosevelt had been president for little more than a month when McKellar wrote an anxious Sowell on April 11, 1933, reassuring the publisher, "...I really feel that we will be able to get you a place." Senator McKellar told Sowell the new administration had "not started appointing yet to any extent, but I feel sure you will be among them." McKellar closed his letter by reminding Ashley Sowell, "You can be assured that I am going the limit for you."

True to his word, Senator McKellar arranged for Sowell to work as the assistant to Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper. McKellar, a great admirer and supporter of the late President Woodrow Wilson, had known Roper during the Wilson administration. When Roper was prodded out of the Roosevelt administration in 1939, Sowell was transferred to the State Department, headed by fellow Tennessean Cordell Hull. Ashley Sowell was assigned to Panama. Evidently Sowell never contemplated returning to Tennessee and engaging in the newspaper business as he sold the Maury Democrat in 1941. After five years in Panama, Sowell had been called back to Washington, D. C. for a conference on Pan-American affairs. Ashley Sowell returned to Panama and a month later died from bronchial pneumonia. Only 51 when he died, Ashley Sowell left behind a wife, daughter, and grandson, as well as his father, a brother, and six sisters.

John Draper Erwin, was yet another journalist who retained a lively interest in politics and landed in a diplomatic career. Erwin was born in Kentucky but attended the McCallie School in Chattanooga. Erwin was a reporter

for the Chattanooga News in 1908 and when John Knight Shields was elected to the United States Senate in 1913, John Draper Erwin went to Washington, D. C. as the secretary for the new senator. That particular arrangement did not last long; John K. Shields could be quite cantankerous and whether Erwin and the senator had a falling out is not known. What is known is Erwin left the office of Senator Shields to serve as the secretary to Tennessee's senior senator, Luke Lea. Lea was charming whereas Shields was curmudgeonly, and Luke Lea also just happened to be in the newspaper business, owning the Nashville Tennessean. Despite his charm, Luke Lea could not help himself and meddled in Tennessee politics continually, earning and making enemies all along the way. Tennessee Democrats were bitterly divided and by 1915 called a primary for Lea's seat more than a year in advance of the 1916 general election. Although Erwin worked diligently for his employer, he apparently also managed not to offend the winner, Congressman K. D. McKellar. Erwin went back to the newspaper business and helped to uncover the Teapot Dome scandal during the 1920s. Erwin was working as the Washington correspondent for the New York Evening

World, the Tennessean, and the Memphis Commercial Appeal until 1937. That same year Erwin became the U. S. Minister to Honduras.

John Draper Erwin was promoted to America's "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary" on March 27, 1943. Ambassador Erwin resigned in 1947 and his resignation caused some political trouble back home, as Senator McKellar strongly suspected his friend was being forced out of office due to the senator's fierce opposition to the nomination of David E. Lilienthal to head the Atomic Energy Commission. The State Department meekly announced Erwin's recall was due to "a general overhaul of the diplomatic service under the new" Secretary of State, George Marshall. Assistant Secretary of State Dean Acheson wrote McKellar to say the "17 changes of chiefs of mission" were certainly "no reflection upon his (Erwin's) record." It is highly unlikely Acheson's letter mollified the peppery McKellar.

Erwin returned home to the United States and worked in the State Department until 1951 when Senator McKellar repeatedly nudged President Harry Truman until the Man from Missouri reappointed John Draper Erwin as Ambassador to Honduras on February 1 of that year. Erwin remained at his post until February 28, 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower replaced him. Once again, John Draper Erwin returned home to work in the State Department. In 1956, John Draper Erwin was seventy-three years old and had served for twenty years in the State Department. Erwin retired and remained in Washington, D. C. Erwin's wife of 59 years, Rebecca, died in 1976 and the ninety-three year-old former ambassador kept up his usual routine of having breakfast at the National Press Club, where he was a member. Arriving each morning at precisely 8:00 a.m., John Draper Erwin would order soft-boiled eggs and coffee while he read a wide variety of newspapers. Ambassador Erwin had been a member of the National Press Club for 67 years and arrived daily until a few months before his death at age ninety-nine in 1983.

Edward Albright, Ashley Sowell, and John Draper Erwin had much in common, not the least of which was a commitment to service and that is qualification enough for a brief remembrance.

2017 Toyota RAV4 LE 1 Owner \$16,940
2017 Ford Taurus SHO AWD 15K Miles \$29,990
2017 Lincoln MRX Reserve Loaded! \$27,590
'16 Ram 1500 Outdoorsman 4X4, Crew \$25,550
2013 Nissan Pathfinder SV Local Trade \$7,995
2014 Porsche Cayenne S AWD, Local \$26,975
2018 Subaru Outback 2.5i Premium AWD \$18,980

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

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

Vestal wants a new bus stop

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The heart of Knoxville is its many neighborhood organizations. South Knoxville has several historic neighborhoods including Island Home Park, Lindbergh Forest, Old Sevier, South Haven, Lake Forest, South Woodlawn, Colonial Village, Montgomery Village and Vestal.

The Vestal area goes way back to early lumber and marble industries there and was named for Mary Vestal, mother of two brothers who formed a lumber company there. The local greenway and park are also named for her.

The community is active in projects, spurred by the Vestal Community Organization. President Eric Johnson told The Knoxville Focus that the group has been working to secure a bus shelter for the corner of Ogle Avenue and Coffee Street. He said the organization has been working with the Sustainable Future Center there to get a grant to complete the project.

David Bolt, interim executive director and founder of the Sustainable Future Center, has been reaching out for

support prior to meeting Tuesday with a city representative of the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment to discuss plans for the shelter. Several neighborhood residents attended the meeting and South Knox County Commissioner Carson Dailey came to add his support as well.

Bolt told The Focus the planned shelter's dimensions will be 8 by 12 feet and the roof will face south so solar panels may be added later to power the lights and a phone charging station. It will be located in front of the Sustainable Future Center at 201 Ogle Ave.

Bolt said the project started about two years ago. So far the site has been marked off and the location of the shelter cleared of grass. He hopes to be pouring concrete soon and will initially include a ramp for handicapped bus riders and a bench.

"This is an excellent location for a bus shelter," Johnson said. He noted the shelter will be along the heavily traveled street which is a state highway. The neighborhood is hoping for some financial support from the city, possibly a grant, to

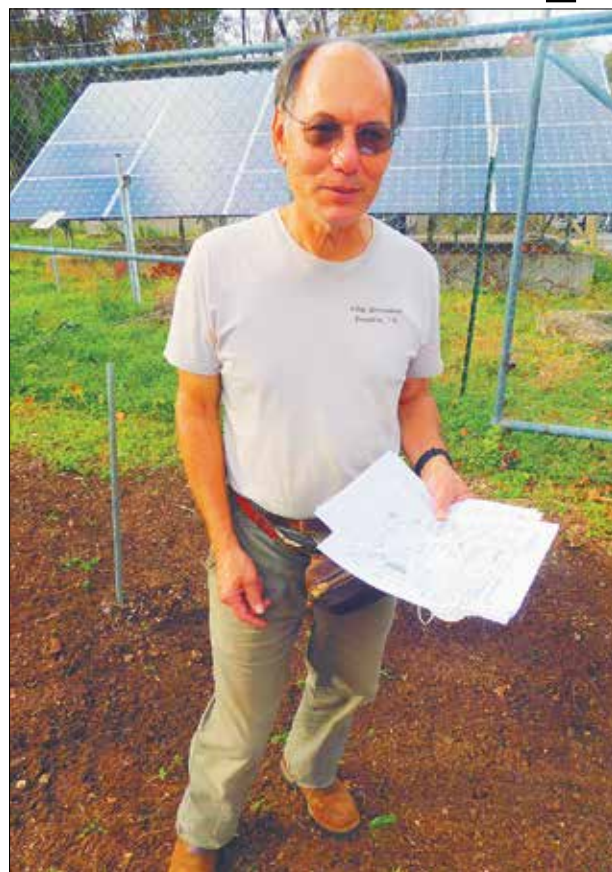


PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Sustainable Future's David Bolt stands at the proposed bus shelter site with plans for the covered structure. The shelter will include a handicap ramp, bench, and possibly solar panels on the south-sloping roof to power lights and cell phone charging outlets.

complete the construction.

Johnson said the bus shelter is one of several projects the neighborhood has been working on completing and the efforts are supported by several organizations. Johnson said the neighborhood group, which meets at

Vestal United Methodist Church, is working on a greenway connection between the park at Ogle Avenue all the way to the quarry at Fort Dickerson Park. He said South Knoxville City Councilman Tommy Smith is coordinating that project.



One of the volunteers who collected flags from graves at the East Tennessee Veteran's Cemetery Friday was PFC Leon Early. The turnout to pick up the flags was less than hoped for with only eight people helping to retrieve some 3,500 flags. Photo Courtesy of Carson Dailey.

City, County Honor Veterans

Cont. from page 1

courageously stepped forward, making personal sacrifices, to protect it. Veterans Day is a tribute to all who served and a thank you for the freedoms we enjoy because they did."

On Monday, Knox County Commission Chairman honored county employees who are veterans of U. S. Military Service. Here's part of the proclamation:

WHEREAS, the Commission of Knox County wishes to recognize and honor the following Knox County employee veterans:

ARMY / ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: Aaron Allen, Henry Braden, John Brinkley, Buzz Buswell, Nicholas Carroll, Andy Collins, Corey Coppola, Mark Cunningham, Josh Dalton, Katelyn Darnell, Nathan Dickson, Paul Dirl, Adam Dowell, Steve Esposito, Eddie Gibson, Tammie Gottman, Michael Greene, Tyler Gresham, Ivan Harmon, James Harper, Jerry Hurst, Ken Irvine, Sean Mikal Jarmon, Lukas Kidwell, Levi McMahan, Bill Oliver, Steven Patrick, Jay Patten, Carl Poe, Leland Price, William Purvis, James Rexroad, Sean Roberts, Michael Rosenbaum, Bob Sayen, Jim Seay, Jim Seeley, Todd Sleet, Steve Sword, Chris Thomas, Warren Torzewski, Mike Trydell, Kyle Ward, Chad Weatherford, David Willet, Landon Wood

MARINE CORPS: Caleb Bartlett, Dwight Blazer, James Brennan, Donald Duncan, Jake Ens, Joseph Felix, David Furr, R. Steven Gilbert, James A. Henley, Michael Holland, Thomas Humphries, Jeffrey Hunter, David Lara, Yasin Parris, Vincent Roncalli, Dan Russell, Hector Sanchez, Roger Schaeffer, Tom Walker, John Whitehead

NAVY: Douglas Canestrari, Nathan Dickson, Mitch Eisenberg, Tiffany Gracy, Gary Houze, Glenn Humphrey, Jeffrey Hunter, Steve Klement, Phillip May, Ralph L. McGhee Jr., Nicholas Nemeth, Tyler Potter, Shan-nen Reece, Michael Reyda, William Aaron Richardson, David Sanders, Chris Sivyier, Nathan Stachey, Scott Terry, Darris Upton

AIR FORCE / AIR NATIONAL GUARD: Bryan Bates, David L. Cunningham Sr., Jennifer Judy, Bobby Law, Mark Lett, Darlene Martin, Charity Menefee, Tim Morgan, Melissa Noel, Mark Pack, Kelly Orr, Christian Pickett, Jay Patten, Tom Spangler, Jeela S. Taylor, Randy Travis, Robyn Trostle, Diane VanOlden, Michael Woodhouse

COAST GUARD: Bryan Hackett



I'M THE FLU!

A TOTAL OVER-SHARER

I KILL THOUSANDS EACH YEAR

IT'S OK IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW ME

'CAUSE I'M SO FOLLOWING YOU



GET VACCINATED.

#FightFluTN #ImmunizeTN tn.gov/health

Cont. from page 1

Bayne explained that women have said that it is hard to find clothes for boys five years old and younger. Thus, the Birdie Blue Boutique section was born.

Birdie's Boutique features a "curvy girl" section and will feature seasonal clothing such as the Christmas items that are on racks now.

"We have something for everyone," Longmire said. "And it's all-new clothing." She explains the shop has everything from comfy wear to dresses, jewelry, jackets and sweaters. "We will keep rotating clothing."

The store is open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Both Longmire and Bayne invite women of all ages to the shop. You can call the store at (865) 474-9877.



NEW BEVERLY
BAPTIST CHURCH

During these difficult times, join us every Sunday in person in our sanctuary and on

Facebook Live at 11 a.m.

Wednesday at 7pm: Bible

Study and Youth ROC

3320 New Beverly Church

Road, Knoxville

Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor

reveddie@newbeverly.org

865-546-0001

www.NewBeverly.org

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Years in the making, Cassie's competitiveness is bound for Penn State

By Steve Williams

With three sports-minded big brothers, Knoxville Catholic High volleyball standout Cassie Kuerschen had to grow up tough and talented.

But it's what she wanted to do. She fell in love watching her athletic brothers – Cameron, Chase and Connor – play in the backyard when she was little. And she joined them.

"They were a huge influence in my choice to play sports," said Cassie a day after signing scholarship papers Thursday to play volleyball at Penn State. "They are also a huge reason why I am a hard competitor because growing up my whole life that is all I knew how to do."

"We all played hard, whether in fun or competition. Most the time I would never win, but I still loved going to the backyard and playing football and basketball with them. It truly taught me the meaning of competing hard."

Cassie chose to make volleyball

her game in high school and put all of her athletic attention on that one sport. She was Catholic's libero, a position played by a team's defensive specialist.

After committing to Tennessee early in the recruiting process, Kuerschen made the decision to explore other possibilities. She put together her "top 10 schools with the most competitive volleyball" and Penn State was at the top of it. The Nittany Lions won the NCAA championship in 1999 and are one of only four schools that have qualified for the national tournament each year since its inception in 1981.

"Thankfully, they were interested and so I focused mainly on building a relationship with them," said Kuerschen, who also was impressed with Penn State's academics.

On Oct. 16, Cassie tweeted her decision: "After much thought and prayer, I am beyond excited to announce that I will be spending

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY KELLY KEARSE

Knoxville Catholic High's Cassie Kuerschen finishes signing a national letter of intent in volleyball with Penn State Thursday.

Local High Schools' College Signees

Wednesday, Nov. 11, was the initial National Signing Day for Division I college basketball's early period, which continues through Nov. 18.

The initial signing day for all other Division I and II college sports, except football, also was Nov. 11 and continues through Aug. 1.

Athletic directors at the following local high schools reported last week that these student-athletes had signed national letters of intent or will by Wednesday (Nov. 18).

BEREAN CHRISTIAN

Cooper Hayes, Lipscomb University, golf

CAK

Zachary Bergstrom, Emmanuel College (Ga.), baseball
Elijah Dew, Walters State, baseball
Andrew Kribbs, Tennessee, baseball
J.D. Price, Western Carolina, baseball

FARRAGUT

Liam Allison, Roanoke College, track / cross country
Macy Barnes, LMU, basketball
Lexanne Halama, Illinois, golf
Jordan Kanipe, Belhaven University (Miss.), softball
Tanner Kim, Kentucky, baseball
Grant King, Lander University (S.C.), lacrosse
Hunter Merrick, ETSU, baseball
Angus Pence, Tennessee, baseball
Logan Putvinski, UT-Martin, equestrian
Hudson Seigler, ETSU, baseball
Lance Simpson, Tennessee, golf
Jake Wurms, Charleston Southern, baseball
Cameron Young, ETSU, softball

KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC

Cassie Kuerschen, Penn State, volleyball

POWELL

Cayden Baker, Texas A&M, softball
Jordan Blair, Lee University, women's soccer
Delayna Bryant, Belmont, softball
Hayden Dye, Carson-Newman, softball
Alaina Watson, ETSU, softball

SEYMOUR

Maddie Creswell, Tusculum, volleyball
Lauren Patterson, Tusculum, volleyball
Maci Pitner, Bryan College, basketball

SOUTH-DOYLE

Sidney Thomas, Carson-Newman, golf

WEBB

Reece Britt, Austin Peay State, golf
Noelle Fuchs, Duke, rowing

WEST

Royal Philo, King University, baseball
Parker Serrano, Roane State, baseball

- STEVE WILLIAMS

Perfect season comes to an end Goodpasture's offense too much for CAK

By Bill Howard

After its thrashing of Boyd-Buchanan in the first round of the TSSAA state playoffs on Nov. 6, Christian Academy of Knoxville not only had a perfect 11-0 record, it had yielded barely 11 points per game on defense.

Its offense, meanwhile, had equally held its own, averaging more than 37 points per contest.

Against Goodpasture Christian School (from Nashville) in the second round Friday night at home, the Warriors' offense again delivered.

Its defense did not.

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY JOHN VALENTINE

Central running back Shannon Mills was hard to get a hold of Friday night in the Bobcats' 28-14 playoff win over Halls in Fountain City.

Mills sparkles as Central runs past Halls 28-14

By Steve Williams

Momentum was slipping away from Central Friday night.

The Bobcats had seen a 14-point lead dissolve when rival Halls drove 70 yards to score on its opening possession of the second half at Dan Y. Boring Stadium in Fountain City.

But Central responded with perhaps its biggest drive of the season – 80 yards in 16 plays – to regain the lead and went on to post a 28-14 win over the Red Devils in the second round of the TSSAA Class 5A playoffs on Joel Helton Field.

Continued on page 3



Save some green!

Renew your **55+ Program** and keep the low rate of \$75 for the 2021 year.

Now 55+ Program.
Senior discount on anyone 55 years old or older

- \$75 now through 12/31/21
- \$23 anytime M-F, includes cart
- \$25 after noon/\$35 before noon, on weekends and holidays, includes cart.



Webb School's boys brought home the gold and its girls' team the silver from this year's TSSAA Division II-A state cross country meet.

Savannah Rivera repeats as Homeschool Nationals' champion

By Steve Williams

Savannah Rivera of the Knoxville Ambassadors won the Homeschool Nationals girls' cross country championship for the second straight year Saturday, Nov. 7, in Nashville.

Rivera, a sophomore this season, posted a 5,000-meter time of 18 minutes and 27 seconds at the event hosted by the Tennessee Heat home school in Middle Tennessee.

Rivera came across the finish line 32 seconds sooner than her closest competitor.

The Ambassadors' Faith Cooke came in 19th place with a time of 21:09.

KA teammates Emily Gunthrie, Sadie Rivera and Emma Hodson finished 21st, 22nd and 29th, respectively, and the Ambassadors' girls team was national runner-up, one point behind the winning team from Chattanooga.

In the boys' division, the Ambassadors' Carter Rivera came in seventh place with a time of 16:37. The winning time was 15:48.

Teammate Zimri Kuha finished ninth (17:06).

Ambassadors Coach Tracy Peevy said the races did not start 11:40 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

"The sun was blazing and the temps were in the mid-70s but felt much warmer," said Peevy. "All the kids seemed to be struggling with the heat after several weeks of cooler evening practices."



Savannah Rivera won the Homeschool Nationals girls' cross country championship in 2019 as a freshman.

Webb cross country teams went to work in the unknown

By Steve Williams

With the coronavirus pandemic having already halted high school basketball tournaments and spring sports, Webb School's cross country teams, like many others, started training for their state meet when they didn't know if there would be one or not in 2020.

Their hopeful attitudes and hard work resulted in the Webb boys and girls capturing Division II-A championship and runner-up honors, respectively, at the state meet in Hendersonville on Friday, Nov. 6.

Head Coach Bobby Holcombe pointed out the "consistency" from his coaching

staff plus the student-athletes' positive approach and their families' support also contributed to bringing home the gold and silver.

"We started with this journey back in May when we knew we would not have a track season," said Holcombe. "Our summer commitment and trusting we would have a cross country season inspired our athletes to stay positive and focus on our team goals."

"Our goal in May was to come home with a first place trophy but knew we would deal with challenges and would adjust on the fly if needed."

The Webb boys' championship was its 11th in school

history and first since 2016.

Holcombe said "staying in the moment and focusing on one mile at a time" was what impressed him most about this group of Spartans. "We would only train what we could control."

"Having hope that we would have races helped inspire our athletes to continue to focus on the goal."

The Webb girls have won 10 state titles in school history and this year marked the Lady Spartans' fourth state runner-up showing.

"Our girls are extremely young with a lot of potential," said Holcombe. "We did not have a senior in the starting

seven on state day. We knew we had a chance to get on the podium if we worked hard and continued to improve on each run. They stayed consistent and focused on their individual and team goals."

Senior Austin Rhea and freshman Anna Graves both finished third individually to lead the Webb teams.

Coach Holcombe wanted to thank the Webb "family." He believes he has one of the best coaching staffs there is in Adam Braude, Tony Cosey and Samantha Haase.

"They do a fantastic job working together throughout the season," said Holcombe.

Edwards' touchdowns lead Nashville

Christian to victory over King's Academy

Cont. from page 2

that gives us a great advantage in all three phases."

The Eagles would take the lead for good on Edwards' 2-yard touchdown run, his second of the game as Nashville Christian went up 14-7 with 9:14 left in the second quarter.

TKA kept making mistakes. The Eagles' Deion King recovered a fumbled snap to A'uff in Lion territory. On 3rd-and-goal at the 1, King ran for a touchdown to put the Eagles up 21-7.

"I thought overall our defense played really well," Brothers said. "Two stands, one on the goal line and one in the red zone at the end so our guys hung in there and fought. I saw guys just being resilient and playing with good fundamentals. We knew we were going to give up plays but we didn't want to give up momentum."

TKA took the second-half kickoff and briefly cut the Eagles' lead to seven as A'uff ran for a 3-yard touchdown on 4th-and-goal to cut the lead to 21-14 with 6:22 left in the third quarter.

However, Nashville Christian answered with nearly a three-minute drive. Edwards scored his third touchdown of the game on a 35-yard scamper to put the Eagles back up two scores at 28-14 with 3:43 left in the third quarter.

Near the end of the third quarter, Nashville Christian put a halt to a King's comeback by forcing another fumble, part of three turnovers the Lions forced on the day. The fumble could not have come at a worse time for King's as the Lions were in the red zone.

Edwards cemented his multi-touchdown game with a 1-yard touchdown run on 4th-and-goal with 4:58 left in the game to make the final score 35-14 Nashville Christian.

"Coach called an outside run and we scored it," Edwards said. "I think we can get a whole lot better, starting off the game not slow and just coming out dominant in the first half more than we did tonight," Edwards added.

"My guys fought their guts out," King's Academy head coach Jonathan Sellers said.

Years in the making, Cassie's competitiveness is bound for Penn State

Cont. from page 1

the next 4 years of my Volleyball Career at Penn State University. Cannot wait to be a part of this amazing legacy. Thank you to those who loved and supported me through this decision!!"

Brother Chase, who is in his senior year as a starting safety at Tulane, tweeted back: "Congrats Cassie!! You're gonna do big things. Love you and proud of you!"

Kuerschen played for Lady Irish Coach Brent Carter and made it to the Division II-AA state tournament all four years of her prep career. She's also been a three-time All-State selection (this year's team has not been announced).

Cassie, who is Catholic's all-time leader in digs (1,895), is the 2020

Wendy's High School Heisman Tennessee Volleyball Player of the Year and Scholarship Recipient and also received Honorable Mention on this year's Under Armour All-American team.

She plans to major in pre med with career goals in the medical field, possibly as a physician or nurse anesthetist.

"Cassie is an amazing young lady who has worked so hard and deserves every accolade she gets," said Dickie Sompayrac, President of Knoxville Catholic High School. "She is not only a great player and a fierce competitor, but more importantly, a great teammate and a student who is beloved by her peers and her teachers. Her tenacity

and competitiveness on the court are matched by her humility, kindness, and respect for others off the court. They just don't come any finer than Cassie!"

Come worship with us

New Beverly Baptist Church

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

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Youth 7:00 p.m.
Bus Ministry -
For transportation call 546-0001.

THE PERFECT INDOOR ENVIRONMENT,
BROUGHT TO YOU BY TRANE.



A new high efficiency heating & cooling system can be more affordable than you think with NO MONEY DOWN & LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS through the TVA eScore Program.

Are you interested in reducing your energy consumption by as much as 40%? Well, the most effective way to make that happen might come as some surprise to you. It has nothing to do with your car, or your light bulbs, or any household appliance that you might be thinking of ... getting a more energy efficient heating & cooling system is one of the best ways you

can get significant energy savings. Trane introduces the XV20i heating and cooling system with a 12-year compressor warranty. It is, simply put, one of the most energy efficient, environmentally friendly heating and cooling systems available. Contact LB Chase Mechanical to learn more about how you can dramatically reduce your heating costs today.

Expect more from your independent Trane dealer.

LB Chase MECHANICAL

(865) 428-4824
www.lbchase.com



MOLD TOX™

"Breathe Healthy"

BASEMENT OR CRAWLSPACE LEAKING??

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

BBB Accredited Business with A+ Rating

TN Charter #4410

(865) 524-1227

(865) 453-1880

www.moldtox.com

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



The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Wolves

"It is enough that people know there was an election. The people who cast votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything."
 Joseph Stalin

I cannot accept a president elected by deceit. More than 72 million Americans voted for President Trump and they will not be satisfied until the election irregularities in Michigan, Nevada, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Arizona have been thoroughly investigated. Obama once said that American elections cannot be corrupted. We now doubt our Republic's most sacred institution.

I do not accept the news media's coronation of Joe Biden. The media referred to Al Gore as the president-elect for five weeks in 2000, until he wasn't. If Joe Biden wins fairly, I will support him

as duly elected. If we don't investigate the allegations of election fraud then we are unworthy as a people and the country is lost.

I voted for President Trump, not for his personality, but for his policy achievements. Actually, I don't know the man. What I know of him is his palpable love of America. The Greek language recognizes seven different types of love. Examples are: agape (sacrificial love), eros (erotic love), pragma (shared love as in a marriage). I love my wife and I also love chocolate, but these are not the same.

Sylogism is a basic form of logical analysis. Simplistically, if A equals C, and B equals C, then A equals B. Perhaps my love of Donald Trump is a new type of love I'll call sylogistic-love. The president loves America. I love America. Therefore, I

can love Trump based on our shared love of America and the Constitution.

Millions of Americans voted for Joe Biden, not out of love or for his accomplishments during forty-seven years in government. Arguably, many voted for Joe Biden out of an ignoble hatred of Donald Trump. One might argue that hate has trumped love, but then you would have to accept the current election results and at this point I do not.

It is argued that both sides cheat, but if that is true why are voting fraud allegations always directed toward Democrats? I cannot recall a single incident where thousands of ballots were suddenly discovered and were "100% for one candidate" (Joe Biden), and the rest of the down-ballot voting choices were left blank.

So well-known is the Democrat vote machine in Chicago that a TV series The Good Wife cavalierly dramatized voting abuses in Chicago. The voting irregularities in six states have now precipitated a constitutional crisis which must be investigated or 72 million voters will never accept Joe Biden.

I am not a computer expert and terms like "linear transfer analysis" and the "weighted tabulation feature" in computer voting

machine programs are way "beyond my paygrade," to quote Obama. Actually, I had never heard of these terms until last week. Apparently, Dominion Voting Systems, a Canadian company now located in Denver, is at the center of the 2020 vote machine imbroglio. This company's software is used in more than half of Michigan counties and in 33 other states. Voting fraud has been alleged after a noteworthy switch of 6000 presidential votes in Antrim County, Michigan. Nationwide, 450,000 votes have been reportedly switched by the Dominion Voting System.

I am not a conspiracy theorist, but I now have doubts about not only uncertified ballots (last week's essay), but also vote counting systems. After being repeatedly lied to over the last four years, I don't trust the media. I do believe that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." (Lord Acton)

There is a difference between making a mistake and obstinate denial of reality. The media and Democrats allege that Trump is denying the inevitable. I don't accept that premise because the accusers have been shown to be repeatedly dishonest and wrong. If Trump is mistaken about

voting fraud, then prove it and I'll admit I was wrong and accept the results of the election. However, I will not accept the pronouncements of the alphabet media, Biden's puppeteers, Democrats or deep state operatives.

Some say Trump and his 72 million voters should just trust the vote counters. That possibility is gone. I do not accept a Stalin-esque system. I have always accepted the integrity of the voting system. But with non-validated mail-in ballots and questionable computer vote tallying programs, this now has to be proved. Actually, the 2020 voting issue is much bigger than Trump; confidence in the entire voting system hangs in the balance. If the vote of We the People is irrelevant and is allowed to be corrupted by those who count the votes, then our representative republic and democracy are forfeit.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Perhaps those who crucified an innocent man were ignorant of the truth and duped by their elitist leaders. We also have been duped. If you think "quid pro Joe" is an honorable man you are sorely mistaken and have been duped.

Trump is no Christ figure.

The president is a sinner like me. However, we have been repeatedly lied to, so why should we continue to trust the liars out of some misguided party allegiance or hatred? Ignorance may be a forgivable excuse, but is willful ignorance in this information age defensible?

So, what do we do in our civil war? There is a wonderful line in the movie Apollo 13 when all seemed lost. The Ed Harris character playing the NASA mission operations director Gene Kranz said "Work the problem. Failure is not an option." And against all odds they saved the crew. And we must thoroughly investigate the 2020 election fraud allegations and save our country.

In a recent sermon the minister advised us to "Feed the Lamb and starve the beast." Though he was referring to Christ as the lamb, there is an old Cherokee Indian story called The Wolves Within which makes the same point. It is important to actively work for justice by feeding the good in each of us and starve the bad (hatred) because the "wolf" we feed is the one who will win control of our soul.

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

What If?

This week, I wanted to share with you a timely poem written by Sarah Bourns:



By Mark Brackney, Minister of the Arlington Church of Christ

Wow our world is in a whirl of What If's right now.

Worst case scenarios, wild worries, bewildering unknowns.

Scary scenes of pending gloom loom heavy over

our hearts.

So, what if we traded our What If's...? for EVEN IF's... and EVEN IF NOT's...

Like the 3 Jewish boys, standing smack in the middle of a fiery furnace, who declared that God COULD indeed rescue them. Easily.

But, EVEN IF NOT, still they would trust him. Still they were His. Still they would not bow to another.

EVEN IF.
 And, EVEN IF NOT.
 That pretty much covers it.

Even if you get "that" call.
 Even if you hear "that" news.
 Even if "that" never changes.
 Even if God leads you to "that" place.

Even if you have _____

Even if you lose _____
 Even if you don't _____
 Even if you do _____ ... fill it in however you choose...

Even then, you are secure.
 Even then, you can know peace.
 Even then, his hand will guide you.
 Even then, he will never leave you.

What if, we exchange our "WHAT IF" worries for EVEN IF stakes in the ground, even if it is shaky quicksand.

Even still.
 Even so.
 Even then.
 Even that.
 Period.

We will trust Him. We will follow Him. We will hold onto Him with everything we've got.

Because. "Where else would we go? You alone have the words of life." John 6:67

**You're invited to the
 HOOT, HOLLER AND HONK DRIVE
 THRU!**

**South Knoxville Senior Center
 6729 Martel Ln, Knoxville, TN 37920**

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**FREE GIVEAWAYS AND GREAT
 INFORMATION FOR SENIORS!**

Riggs Drug Store will be grilling up turkey burgers for the 1st 50 cars that drive-thru to pick-up bags of good information from sponsors like Cigna Healthcare, Williamsburg Villas, Knox High Apartment Living, Volunteer Assisted Transportation and many others! Also Senior Information and Referral and Core Insurance Advisors will have reps here to assist seniors one-on-one with any Medicare questions they may have, right from their car.



Masks Required.

**Keeping Mom
 Safe & Close To You**

How Can We Help?

Following all CDC, state and local safety protocols for COVID-19 prevention



Locations in Clinton, Lenoir City, Knoxville and Powell

Schedule a Tour! • morningpointe.com • (877) 776-4683



