

COVID-19 Weekly Focus

	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	39,328	8.4%	522	.11%

SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 2/20/2021.

On commission agenda
New location for vaccines, sheriff's courthouse, AJ Building

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission discussed a new metal courthouse for the sheriff's department, a new location for COVID-19 vaccinations, the sale of the Andrew Johnson Building and several other matters Tuesday in a virtual work session.

New vaccine location in March

In other action the commission moved along a six-month lease agreement between the health

department and K-VA-T for use of the former Food City at 4216 North Broadway. The proposed monthly rent is \$5,700 and Dr. Martha Buchanan said that the procurement department worked out the lease agreement. Procurement Director Matt Myers said there is still work going on in the facility but plans are to open in March. Buchanan said it is an ideal location with a large parking lot and is ADA accessible.

The Food City building will be used by the health department everyday, allowing them a walk-in clinic and vaccines by

appointment where people can wait in their cars prior to the vaccines.

Dr. Buchanan said the funds come from COVID money from the federal government. She confirmed the health department has adequate funding currently for COVID response.

Sheriff's proposed courthouse

It was a given that the Knox County Commission would approve Sheriff Tom Spangler's **Continued on page 2**



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY.

The former Food City at 4815 North Broadway may soon be the site of the Health Department's COVID-19 vaccinations. The huge empty building is being leased for 6 months and has ample parking and is ADA compliant for handicapped people.

Knox County said to be in great shape financially

By Mike Steely
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By all official indications Knox County and the Knox County School System are in great shape, much better than what was forecast last year. That's what the local bean counters reported to the Knox County Commission's finance meeting Tuesday.

According to Ron McPherson, the KCS finance director, the system has a 14% surplus in sales tax revenue and overall has between a \$22 or \$23 million surplus in general revenue.

He said COVID-19 CARES dollars have helped the pandemic relief in the school system, providing some relief to the overall budget.

"We don't look at it as a wind-fall," he said, noting that the system faces increases in spending on health insurance, new textbooks, new devices for virtual learning and teacher pay.

"I think the virtual learning is here to stay," he said. McPherson said the system is looking at revamping the virtual learning experience to make it more like a real classroom.

County Finance Director Chris Caldwell told the commissioners that the county is \$5.3 million to the good thanks to sales tax revenue. He said the general fund is 6% ahead through December despite reductions revenues from the Hotel-Motel sales tax, the Wheel Tax, court revenues and gasoline taxes.

Caldwell said that property tax collection is up 6%.

"We have great sales tax numbers," Caldwell said and Commissioner Randy Smith noted that 25% of the sales tax now comes from internet sales.



Knox County's newest committee had its first meeting last week. The Knox County Committee on Health and Economic Well-Being met virtually on Wednesday. It will meet on the second Wednesday of every month.

Economic and Well-Being Committee meets for first time

By Ken Lay

A new committee had its inaugural meeting last week.

The Knox County Committee on Health and Economic Well-Being met for the first time virtually, via Zoom, on Wednesday afternoon.

The 11-member committee, which was formed to serve in an advisory role to Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and the Knox County Commission, appointed officers and discussed what its place and identity would be moving forward.

Committee members include: Dr. Joshua Williams (Chairman); County Commissioner Dr. Dasha Lundy (Vice Chair); Allison Oaks (Secretary); economist David Moon; economist Dr. Ramon DeGennaro; Knox County business leaders Candace Viox and Allison Oaks; medical professionals James Choo and Regina Hensley; Dr. Kathleen Brown (an epidemiologist) and social worker Carletta Smelcer.

Knox County Law Director David Buuck was also present

Wednesday.

After selecting its officers, the committee discussed what its role would be and its true identity.

"The perception is out there that this committee was formed to undermine the (Knox County) Board of Health and that was not my intention when I agreed to serve on this committee," Williams said. "That may be the objective of others on this committee, and those members are certainly encouraged to speak up."

"I'm here to work with the Board of Health to support health and economic development."

With Wednesday's gathering being the first meeting, all of the committee members were calling for the clarification of the committee's function moving forward as it considers the impact of COVID-19 and subsequent issues surrounding the pandemic, which has impacted Knox County for nearly a calendar year.

"This is an advisory

committee," Buuck said. "The mayor and the County Commission are looking for recommendations."

One profession that was noticeably absent was that of a K-12 teacher and the committee members said that it will advise that the committee be expanded to include both a K-12 teacher and a K-12 special education teacher.

The committee set its meeting dates. It will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held virtually on March 10 at 3 p.m.

Williams and other committee members have agreed to set tentative time limits for meetings.

The first formal meeting in March is slated to last two hours and committee members have agreed to keep meetings at one hour beginning in April.

"I hear people saying that they want a two-hour meeting but I'm a proponent of a one-hour meeting," Moon said. "I feel like we can get done what we need to get done in 60 minutes."

Role of the commission chairman discussed

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission Rules Committee meeting Tuesday was an in-person meeting in the small conference room on the 6th floor of the City-County Building and was not telecast on CTV or Zoom but was audio was recorded by the clerk's office.

The "roles and responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair" was brought up by Chairman Larsen Jay who wanted to discuss who can call special sessions or declares open or "Zoomed" meetings.

This topic carried over to the commission work session later that day.

Law Director David Buuck seemed to say that setting meetings is not just for the chair as the role of the chairman defined by the commission. Past Chairman Randy Smith said that "in normal times" all meetings are open to the public but said the existing commission rules "don't discuss that."

Jay said the rules say nothing about meetings during "natural disasters."

Smith said the group should vote on adding or altering the rules to decide who calls meetings and said the current situation is "tradition versus what is." Jay said he may plan to have open public meetings again in the main assembly room of the City-County Building beginning in March but noted it depends on whether Governor Bill Lee extends the COVID-19 pandemic emergency order.

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Republican comeback

From a distance



By John J. Duncan Jr. duncanj@knoxfocus.com

As almost all Focus readers know, I grew up in a political family. I have been involved in politics since I was a small boy.

After all these years, about the only certain thing I can tell you is that the pendulum swings. Sometimes it swings

for you and sometimes it swings against you.

Many times, the pundits and analysts have said the Republican party was dead or dying only to see it come back stronger than ever.

In 1964, the Republican nominee for President, Barry Goldwater, lost in a landslide. The U.S. House ended with a 295 to 140 majority for the Democrats.

Two years later, in 1966, Republicans picked up 46 seats in the House, six in the Senate, including Howard Baker, and eight governorships, including Ronald Reagan, one of their best elections.

In 1992, Bill Clinton was elected President and

some said the Republican party was dying.

Two years later, so many had soured on Clinton that the Republicans took control of the U.S. House for the first time in 42 years.

Fast forward to 2008, Barrack Obama was elected, and once again some commentators said the Republican party was on its deathbed.

Former Sen. Baker wrote a column for the Washington Post after that election saying those analysts were wrong, that Republicans would come back strong, because the Obama administration would either "over-reach

or under-achieve."

He was right, and two years later, in 2010, Republicans took control of the Congress.

This limited history makes me somewhat hopeful that 2022 will be another Republican year.

Very many low-information voters - the kind that know more about what is on TV than what is going on in Congress- don't vote in off-year elections. This is usually good for Republicans.

The only caveat is that the next elections may be very difficult because the big media, big tech, big government combine is stronger than ever.

The national media has become an arm of the Democratic party and will do everything it can to protect and promote President Biden just as it did in the campaign.

Rush Limbaugh said on a recent program, that the United States is being ruled by what he called "tech titans."

He said, "Congress never did one thing to stop them. Oh, they huffed and they puffed" but "Congress never did one thing to stop them, never did one thing to get in their way, ever... Still haven't. You know why? Scared to death."

British columnist Niall Ferguson wrote recently of

a U.S. Supreme Court case which said sex offenders could not be kept off internet platforms because they are "the modern public square."

Mr. Ferguson wrote that "Twitter is apparently within its rights to delete the President's account altogether. Sex offenders have a right of access to online social networks, but the President does not."

This is not a conspiracy. Big tech, big media, and big government are openly colluding to do away with true freedom of speech in this country.

Joe Biden is the Pinocchio of our Time

President Biden is preaching unity out of one side of his mouth while out



By Dr. Harold A. Black blackh@knoxfocus.com

of the other side he and his party are driving wedges between the democrats and the Americans who did not vote for him. If Biden were Pinocchio, his nose would be ever growing.

The Democrats in the House of Representatives have voted to strip the committee assignments from the controversial representative from Georgia Marjorie Taylor Greene. I did not know that one party could dictate the committee assignments of the other party.

The only thing accomplished by such a move is to make a celebrity out of Rep. Greene and alienate not just her supporters but many republicans who don't even share her views.

On the other hand, Democratic representatives who are openly anti-Semitic such as Rep. Omar (D-MN) and Tlaib (D-MI) have not been disciplined by their party even though many of its leaders are Jewish.

The Democrats have also sought to purge all Trump appointees to government advisory committees. The Pentagon has 42 such committees and the new secretary of defense as a first order of business ordered the resignation of all committee members. Please understand that these boards are non-partisan and members are not compensated.

One would surmise that in the Biden administration they will no longer be nonpartisan. Certainly this does not engender "unity".

Biden also asked for the resignation of the heads of the government's global media agency which includes the Voice of America and is seeking to remove all Trump appointees from all levels of the federal government.

The National Guard troops sent to Washington due to the hysterical Democratic reaction to the disturbance at the capitol were vetted by the FBI.

The vetting took place because Nancy Pelosi and her ilk were fearful of an insider attack from service members who had voted for Trump.

I am ashamed that one of the vocal leaders was Tennessee congressman Steve Cohen who insinuated that there might even be an assignation attempt on Biden by Trump-voting guardsmen.

Biden did nothing to dissuade such thinking. This type of action should have been deeply offensive to most Americans and was anything but a plea for unity.

Biden has also called for the military to purge the military of white supremacists. Certainly, that should be the continuing goal of any administration but in this case "white supremacists" is code for "Trump supporters."

I am particularly troubled by Nancy Pelosi referring to Republican members of Congress as "the enemy within" and the secretary of defense saying, "The job of the Department of Defense is to keep America safe from our enemies. But we can't do that if some of those enemies lie within our own ranks."

Does this sound like unity to anyone? Certainly not to me. Rather it is a threat to our liberties and rights. It is clear that even though Biden preaches unity, he really doesn't mean it. When he touts diversity he means diversity in how one looks rather than in how one thinks.

The ongoing purge is part of the typical excesses that occur when the left is in power and in more times than not leads to their being ousted having alienated a large portion of the voting populace with their heavy handed actions.

The Democrats don't seem to care what impact their actions have on those who do not favor muzzling dissenting voices, open borders, abortion on demand, transgender athletes, open bathrooms, application of critical race theory, climate as a religion, equity rather than equality, embracing the notion of systemic racism and dissing the founding fathers and the Constitution.

The voters at the margin have flipped from George Bush to Barack Obama to Donald Trump and now to Joe Biden. Although a lot of damage can be done in four years, I'll take a bet that if the Democrats continue to overplay their hand they will lose their congressional majority in 2022 and the presidency in 2024.

Role of the commission chairman discussed

Cont. from page 1

Commissioner Charles Busler called the discussion "a solution looking for a problem" and said it would be odd to call the whole commission together for a vote on when or where to meet.

Commissioner Richie Beeler said he supported a vote to give the chairman the option of where and when to meet.

"We vote on the calendar each year," Commissioner Carson Dailey said, adding he wonders if the chairman and vice chairman roles need job descriptions.

"We don't need to make this a dictatorship," he said Commissioner Terry Hill

said that while there's no effort to have one person to have full control she said the chairman should be allowed to make meeting decisions.

Several commissioners said they favor open public meetings, especially during zoning sessions. Commissioner John Schoonmaker suggested that decisions on meetings could be made by commissioners on the commission's forum page on the internet. Jay replied that most commissioners don't use the forum page and that new members of the commission have not been told how to use the page.

Smith said of his six

years on the commission, this past year has been the "toughest year" where meetings were held in unconventional ways.

Jay said the matter should go back to the Rules Committee for a resolution and that meetings should be better, more fluid and better organized.

Another matter discussed during the earlier Rules Committee meeting included the rules of decorum at meetings in a talk brought forward by Busler. Also discussed was moving consent items, public forum, and school resolutions around in the regular meeting agenda.

New location for vaccines, sheriff's courthouse, AJ Building

Cont. from page 1

Mike Hammond defended Spangler's proposal and said "absolutely" the building would be used. He said virtual hearings have a history at the current facility and the new building would have better computer reception.

Currently the Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled to allow virtual hearings. Commissioner Terry Hill said she would hate to see the building go up and the Supreme Court go back to requiring in-person court hearings.

The matter was moved to today's meeting with "no recommendation."

Sheriff Spangler also said the main jail facility in Maloneyville is switching to a new provider for inmates to call relatives and their attorneys. Inmate Calling Solutions LLC, doing business as ICSolutions, will help raise funds for the department. Commissioner Carson Dailey commented that the jail does not supply tablets to inmates despite rumors saying otherwise.

Criminal Court Clerk

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Also on the agenda

The postponement of the Andrew Johnson Building sale to BNA Associates LLC was passed on to the regular meeting without discussion.

Carter Park improvements totaling about \$232,600 were approved with Kimley-Horn to bring the park and buildings there into ADA compliance for handicapped use.

The commissioners also approved a resolution asking members of the Tennessee General Assembly to set up a special tax area within 1/4 mile radius of the proposed new baseball stadium near the Old City.

Commissioner Dasha Lundy asked that February be declared "Black History Month" and challenged everyone to promote inclusion and equality. She cited concerns among the African-American community about poverty and a fear of how the proposed new baseball stadium would affect their neighborhood.

Corrections
 In last week's story "Call if you can, text if you cannot," Commissioner Justin Biggs was pictured with state Senator Becky Duncan Massey. Also in last week's Notable Knoxvilleians, Clifford Curry's hit was "She Shot a Hole in My Soul," not "She Shot a Hole in My Heart."
 We apologize for the errors.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley,
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infuriated by his conservative message and his usual good humor. Nor could they stand his calling them out for their unending hypocrisy. Rush Limbaugh was not one of the angry voices on the right; he didn't make his points by hollering nor did he rant, yet he could be positively and brutally effective in disseminating his message, another thing that caused the left to lose its collective mind. Rush never spoke in the "woke" tones demanded by people who talk compassion, shriek and squeal about hatred, yet are ready to stamp out dissent no matter what it takes. That hatred has been spewed all over the pages of social media when Rush Limbaugh died last Wednesday, but Rush himself would have expected nothing less, as he was well aware of their collective nature. There was a depiction of the flames of Hell with photos of Rush Limbaugh standing between Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. One nutcake professor said something along the lines of he couldn't say he was sorry Limbaugh was dead, it was more like euphoric. I doubt Rush would want any of his friends and fans to be upset, but rather enjoy the reveling done by the left at his demise, showing themselves yet again for what they truly are.

Rush Limbaugh came along and made fun of the left, which was simply not done. Unlike those who hated him, he won a place in the affections and hearts of millions of his fellow Americans. Unlike those who loathed him, Rush Limbaugh loved his country and fellow man. Unlike those who despised him, Rush Limbaugh was a true patriot. Unlike those who derided him, Rush Limbaugh was honest about his beliefs and never hid his motives. Unlike those who tried to diminish him, he was a giant in his field and towered over them like a Colossus in a field of pygmies. Unlike his detractors, Rush Limbaugh was not so erudite and sophisticated that he didn't believe in God; quite the contrary, Rush was a man of great faith.

Rush Limbaugh was a true American original. And say what they may, the mean-spirited, hate-driven folks who celebrate Rush Limbaugh's passing miss the point Rush is well beyond their slings and

arrows for he sits with the God who made him.

School Shootings & Defunding the Police

If you are a regular reader of my editorials, you realize they are opinion pieces. I have frequently noted the rise of crime, especially inside the city limits of Knoxville. The several shootings of youngsters is nothing less than tragic and appalling. What was the response of city leaders and Mayor Indya Kincannon? To call a press conference to decry the violence with the superintendent of schools and the Knox County Board of Education. Were it rue Kincannon and the Knoxville City Council were taking the matter seriously the attorney general would have been invited to the press conference instead of a gaggle of school officials. The notion murder is a social issue instead of a law enforcement issue seems to have completely escaped Indya and her subservient city council.

If anyone doubts that crime is on the rise inside the City of Knoxville the shootings should answer that question with chilling finality. Do you suppose the gang members who gunned down those precious young people acquired their guns legally? Why of course not. Prior to the shootings Mayor Kincannon and the members of the City Council have said little or nothing about the escalation of violence inside Knoxville. They have been shamefully silent. This is an election year in Knoxville and five council incumbents are all apparently running for reelection. Their collective silence, perhaps more accurately, their obvious fear of discussing the issue of the rising tide of crime inside the city limits has kept the council members as silent as if they were mute. Come election time, talking about how the council incumbents have fixed a pothole here and had leaves picked up there won't likely outweigh those who are concerned for the safety of their families and homes. That also opens the door for challengers to emerge who are unabashedly for MORE law enforcement efforts, not defunding or debilitating the police. That point was all too clear as Kincannon's press conference was something of

an unintended spectacle. Agitators and public nuisances otherwise referred to politely as activists heckled as the radical leftists kept up a din of catcalls and demands to defund the Knoxville Police Department. Police Chief Eve Thomas was present at the press conference and aside from the notion the shootings are horrible and unacceptable, it was little more than a political road show to give the appearance Indya Kincannon is actually doing something. So far, Chief Thomas seems to be paralyzed and that can be attributed to Kincannon. The mayor appoints the Knoxville Chief of Police and the policies implemented by the chief executive really do set the tone and the actions of the KPD. In short, the buck stops with Indya Kincannon. I've served on the Board of Education and that is where Indya Kincannon got her political start. We both know all too well the Board hasn't got a blessed thing to do with stopping the violence on city streets and in city neighborhoods.

Folks should be safe in their homes; youngsters should be safe on the streets as they walk to school or a playground. That is ultimately the entire purpose of the police. The function of a police department is to protect and serve and that is precisely the point reinforced by the tragic and unnecessary loss of those precious young lives. That is no comfort to the families who will never stop grieving for their

loved ones. Nor is a political roadshow in a city park much comfort to the families who have lost youngsters to street violence. The only thing that may provide some comfort to those families is justice being done. What that means is the perpetrators be found, caught and judged by a court of law and convicted for their crimes and put away so they can't kill someone else's child. A social worker can't accomplish any of that.

The brutal and senseless killings of those youngsters is beyond terrible. It is past time for the city council and Mayor Kincannon to actually do something and instead of offering "woke" platitudes and attempting to appease the far left who are against law enforcement - - - and I mean that quite literally as those people are actually against anybody enforcing the law, leaving you and your family at the mercy of the lawless. We've just seen that happen in a matter of days and no social worker will ever be able to wash that innocent blood from our streets.

Socialists in Charge

The City of Minneapolis you will recall has been one of those unfortunate municipalities afflicted by socialist leadership on its city council and in the forefront of the defund the police movement. Now Minneapolis is having to beg for more officers after initially slashing the police department's budget due

to rising crime and complaints of residents.

The Yes 4 Minneapolis committee (the sister of the City Council Movement here) is the socialist movement in the area, which is persisting in pressing its socialist agenda. Fueled by a half million dollar grant from the Open Society Policy Center, a group which has been linked to ultra-leftist billionaire George Soros, Yes 4 Minneapolis is trying to place on the ballot an initiative to replace the police department with a "public safety" department. The public safety department would be charged with law enforcement, but would largely be a public-health department with the police department language literally removed from the Minneapolis charter. It would include "licensed peace officers if necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the department." Note the most important part of that sentence: IF NECESSARY. After the recent shootings, how could anyone possibly believe law enforcement isn't necessary?

Look for the same tactics to be employed here by the socialists attempting to take over the Knoxville City Council this year. There have already been rumblings from local socialists to slice \$8 million from the Knoxville Police Department budget to buy or rent a hotel to house the homeless.

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Cliff Rodgers' response to February 15, 2021 Publisher's Position

Dear Steve,
Now that I have managed to pry myself away from a frenzied feasting at the "Republican trough" (as you describe it), I wanted to clarify some of the remarks in your column a "wee, wee" bit and shed additional light on some of your assumptions and misconceptions about my legal background and previous participation (or lack thereof at times) in the Republican Party. More to the point, your column intimates, among other things, that I may never have practiced law and thus my only two meaningful jobs were, in effect, "Republican jobs"; consequently, you seem to suggest that I am to be permanently beholden to the Republican Party (or at least beholden to the point that I should not publicly change parties as I have recently done). For the reasons that follow, I must respectfully disagree.

First of all, I have in fact practiced law. I did so initially with the law firm of Baker, Worthington, Crossley, Stansberry and Woolf for four years, beginning in 1980 after graduating from UT Law School. In 1984, I went to work as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge James H. Jarvis, II, who had just been appointed to the federal bench by President Reagan. And although we both anticipated that I would clerk for just a few years, I actually continued to do so until his death on June 6, 2007.

While I suspect that Judge Jarvis knew that I was a Republican at the time he

hired me, the main reason he did so was that I had several years of legal experience at one of the best law firms in Knoxville at the time. Most folks who apply to clerk are fresh out of law school and Judge Jarvis preferred someone with legal experience. In no way was I hired because I was a Republican—this was not a political appointment. I must therefore take issue with your strong implication that my lifetime of "feeding" at the "Republican trough" began in 1984.

Nevertheless, Judge Jarvis was certainly aware as time passed that I was a Republican as I began attending, probably around 1986, the West Knox Republican Club meetings at West Hills Elementary and Republican dinners and other events. I also worked with the Young Republicans Club when Tim Burchett was its president. As you mentioned in your column, because of my job, I was not allowed to be too active. But around 1990, Judge Jarvis summoned me to his chambers and said that the federal judges had decided that law clerks were no longer allowed to be involved at all in ANY political activities—period. So, that ended all political activity until my clerking concluded in December 2007.

In 2008 during the Presidential Election, I served as a treasurer for John McCain here in Knoxville County along with Nick McBride. In early 2009, after the unexpected death of our two-year old daughter Rhett (our only

child), I took a year off from politics and work.

In January 2010, I began practicing law with George Arrants until May 2011 when I was appointed as the Administrator of Elections (AOE) for Knox County. George was an active and loyal Republican so he and I often attended Republican dinners and events. So, based on the above activities, I believe most folks would consider me to be an active Republican—more active than some but admittedly less active than others.

As you correctly noted, I was unable to be actively involved in partisan politics while I was AOE. I wanted all Knox County citizens, regardless of party affiliation, to feel that they were treated fairly and evenhandedly by my staff and me. After all, my salary was paid for by ALL of the citizens of Knox County—NOT by the Republican Party.

There is also no question whatsoever that if I had not been a bona fide Republican, I would not have been appointed as AOE. My voting history and background was thoroughly checked out in 2011 by the Election Commission and every two years thereafter when I was reappointed to be sure that I hadn't strayed from the fold. My voting record reflects that I have always voted—and continued to do so—in every Republican Primary (except in August 1994) since I registered in 1971.

And while you say I did not do much for the Republican Party while I was AOE (and

I submit I really couldn't), I felt unbelievable pressure to make the Republican Party proud of its appointment of me and was constantly worried that any misstep at the Election Commission, no matter how slight, would reflect poorly on the GOP and me. I often felt as if I was under constant attack by some of the Democrats and some in the media when I was first appointed—it was as if some of them hoped that I would fail so they could gloat over how much better the office was run when the Democrats were in charge, as they had been for over the last hundred years.

In short, I have always considered myself to be a Republican since I registered to vote in 1971. So I would reject any implication in your column that I have ever been otherwise. I certainly do not feel like I did anything other than ably and faithfully represent the GOP during my entire nine year stint as AOE. I was not some milquetoast version of a Republican during my time there—someone who would easily become a Democrat at the earliest opportunity, especially after being personally attacked by some Democrats shortly after my appointment as AOE.

Moreover, simply because I did not support Trump in 2016 does not, in my view, negate my standing as a Republican during my time as AOE. I supported all other Republican candidates in 2016. Trump verbally attacked or mocked one of my personal heroes,

John McCain, and talked constantly about "rigged elections," even back then. I was very concerned at that time about the dark and disturbing places that Trump might take the party, given his questionable personal background, his litigious history and his constant use of divisive rhetoric and language.

My current dissatisfaction with the Republican Party as whole, however, as opposed to just Trump, did not manifest itself completely until AFTER the November 2020 Elections—well after the point in time when I was no longer employed as the AOE, having retired in May 2020. During the last four years, the GOP has allowed itself to be transformed into what I refer to as the POT (Party of Trump). *And this POT is something in my view which is more of cult than a political party, an organization which elevates Trump's personality over core Republican principles and ideals.*

For example, Trump's baseless claims of a "rigged election" before and after the election directly resulted in some Republican senators and the majority of Republican representatives attempting to totally circumvent the democratic process on or about January 6th by voting to not accept the certified election results of some states such as Arizona and Pennsylvania. *Just when did the GOP abandon respect for the democratic process and respect for state's rights and, most of all, respect for the truth or even the importance of*

the truth? The answer, of course, is obvious—when it became the POT, which is a hollow and soulless shell of the party it used to be.

In conclusion, I do not believe that I have betrayed the GOP, the party which appointed me as AOE. That party no longer exists, having been taken hostage by Trump. So, I choose to move to the only other viable option in a two-party system. Not surprisingly, I along with everyone else will now watch the carnage continue to unfold in the POT as those not sufficiently loyal to him are purged, censured, and basically run out of that organization or cult. The GOP has, as it turns out, been taken to a very dark place by Trump, a place I feel compelled to leave. I am simply thankful that I have somewhere else to go where I will be well received.

Sincerely,
Clifford A. Rodgers

P.S. Your readers also need to know that you and I had a very civil conversation the day after the article ran and that you invited me to send a response to you for publication. Also, I would agree with you on one final point: If you went to Walmart, you could ask several hundred folks about me—please don't stop at 25—and I doubt that even one would have a clue who I am (unless he or she worked elections). By the same token, I doubt that many would be able to name our two senators and their congressman.

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CTV board re-elects officers

The nine-member Community Television Board met earlier this month and re-elected its officers for one year. Jim Idol was again chosen as chairman and, rather than the normal three-year term, requested and was granted a one-year term.

Jackie Lane was re-elected as vice chair but she was absent and will apparently accept the selection. She was recovering from her second COVID-19 vaccine injection.

Beth Waters, who presided over the meeting, was re-elected as treasurer.

The board heard from Councilwoman Seema Singh as she asked why the terms on the board are so long. She suggested a committee be formed for this year to look at the bylaws and consider limits on terms. She applauded the current board members and CTV's staff but said a review of the bylaws and term limits should be conducted. The board agreed and she, Stephanie Brewer-Cooke, Charles Lomax and Commissioner Richie Beeler will serve on that committee.

CTV Director of Community Engagement Kevin Jeske-Polyak reported the station is waiting on financial contributions from the city and county and said that the operating costs for the past year were below what was expected. He also reported that viewership is up and the public response has been good. CTV Director of Operations Jason Amos Oaks reported the station has expanded coverage during the pandemic beyond the usual local government meetings to include other government and local meetings.

Singh asked about Comcast's support and noted she had invited the local Comcast manager to meet with the board. Comcast has announced it will no longer provide an annual franchise fee to CTV, though CTV will continue to receive revenue derived from a very small percentage of Comcast cable subscriptions. A local representative of that cable company is, officially, a member of the board.

Jeske-Polyak said he has hired Monica Hancock to help with outreach and fundraising as part of his reorganization of the staff. He also said that the creation of a community engagement focus group has been extended through February.

The board also discussed the recent departure of a staff member who voluntarily resigned for family-related reasons that required him to move to another state. The employee was given two weeks of pay in lieu of working his notice. He apparently subsequently requested severance pay and expressed a grievance.

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Carroll Reece

Tennessee's 'Mr. Republican' Pt2

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Sam R. Sells, the congressman from Tennessee's First Congressional District, was a successful, forty-nine year-old businessman when he faced a challenge inside the Republican primary from Carroll Reece. Reece was not quite thirty-one years old, well-educated and a highly decorated veteran of the World War. Sells, a cigar-smoking, bushy-headed veteran of ten years in Congress had met with Reece and tried to discourage him from running. At the beginning of the campaign, Congressman Sells and his friends throughout the district had not taken Reece's candidacy seriously. That proved to be a mistake and as the summer progressed, it was all too clear Carroll Reece was making headway in the GOP primary.

George C. Taylor of Greeneville, had been the secretary to the last Republican governor of Tennessee, Ben W. Hooper. A member of the Tennessee Republican State Executive Committee, Taylor was interviewed by a reporter from the Nashville Banner while he was visiting the State Capitol. According to Taylor, Reece was "making an effective campaign for congress" inside the First District. Taylor became manager of Reece's congressional race and by early July was declaring he was "absolutely confident" Reece would win the Republican nomination over Congressman Sells. Taylor said seven newspapers in the district were supporting Reece and the candidate could barely keep ahead of the requests in the district for speaking dates. Taylor noted, "In the upper end of the district where Congressman Sells has always gotten his large majorities, Lieut. Reece has made great gains and it is now conceded that he will carry Johnson county, his home county, which Sells carried by seven hundred two years ago..." George Taylor thought the race between Reece and Sells would be "very close" in Sullivan and Washington counties while pointing out, "Congressman Sells has never been able to carry the lower end of the district and the opposition in Hancock, Claiborne and Grainger is more pronounced than ever before." "In Sevier county there is a veritable political revolution on and conservative politicians are claiming Reece will carry this county by at least 1,000 votes." Taylor concluded the interview with a reporter for the Knoxville Journal and Tribune, "We feel confident that Lieut. Reece will repeat Congressman Will Taylor's performance of two years

ago by carrying practically every county in the district." Congressman Sam R. Sells was evidently feeling some momentum for Reece when he issued a blast through the newspapers in the First District complaining he had been "vigorously and viciously attacked" by his opponent. Sells mentioned three individuals supporting Reece, referring to the trio as Carroll Reece's "political sponsors" and sniffed, "With this crowd fighting me, it has appeared to me that no active campaign on my part is necessary." Sells denied he had summoned Reece to his office and vehemently claimed he had never been "rudely discourteous" to the prospective candidate. Sells further denied he had "boasted of my organization and wealth, both of which I proposed to employ against him should he become a candidate." The congressman also said he had never stated "that when I got ready to quit I would name my successor." Sells said he had not known Reece was in Johnson City so to presume he had summoned the young man to his office was impossible. "But there is just as much truth in this as in the remainder of his statement," Sells growled, "every word of which I emphatically deny." Sells provided a copy of a sworn statement signed by "the gentleman who brought Reece" to his office.

Sells snorted, "It took a week for Reece to discover that he had been insulted, it is a rather poor tribute to his mental attainments which have become the proud boast of the Bluff City Developer and the Carter County Banner, published by my arch enemy, Sam H. Thompson." According to Sam R. Sells, not only had Reece not been insulted, "but treated with the utmost courtesy and respect. I listen patiently to all that he had to say, found no fault with his aspirations to go to Congress, expressed regret that he was to be my opponent, and permitted him to close the interview at his pleasure." For the "fair minded" folks in the First District, Congressman Sells believed his denial, as well as the signed statement by J. W. Shoun should be "sufficient contradiction" to the claims being made by Carroll Reece. Sells insisted it was quite reasonable to believe "that Mr. Reece had opportunities for communion with my enemies" before determining he had been "insulted."

Assessing the congressional race during the first week of July, the Greenville Daily Sun noted Carroll Reece had "been making a very



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Carroll Reece in uniform.

active campaign, speaking in all of the counties." Congressman Sells had "contented himself with visiting practically all of the counties" since returning from the Republican National Convention in Chicago. Sells still had to begin a speaking campaign inside the First District, although the Daily Sun expected the congressman to open in Reece's home of Johnson City. Supporters of the congressman "express no fear" about the outcome of the primary election "and believe his majority over Lieut. Reece will be the largest he has received in any of his races heretofore."

As the supporters of Sam R. Sells were declaring their confidence about the election, Carroll Reece was busy campaigning in Mountain City where the Bristol Herald Courier reported he "was given one of the largest and most enthusiastic receptions" any candidate for Congress had witnessed since "Robert L. Taylor and A. H. Pettibone." A "processional" was formed in front of the courthouse composed of "automobiles and horses", headed by the Mountain City Band. Carroll Reece and his party were met one mile north of the courthouse and escorted into town by supporters. The arrival of the candidate was the signal to begin a parade and everyone marched to "the grounds of the City High School where a platform had been erected", cheerfully festooned with American flags.

Veterans of the World War were a staple of any Reece campaign event and the rally in Mountain City was no exception. Bert Wills, a veteran, was Reece's campaign manager for Johnson City, presided. W. S. Wilson, a former classmate of Reece, was the first of several speakers, including Mayor E. E. Butler. Reece spoke for "more than an hour" and held the attention of his audience without uttering

a criticism of his opponent. Dr. J. B. Shoun was called to the platform where he "delivered an address in behalf of the soldier boy." Finally, Lieutenant John T. Fuller closed out the program after having spoken for another thirty minutes.

Stopping in Knoxville on his way to Sevierville, Carroll Reece told a reporter for the Knoxville Sentinel, "One of my prime objects in running for congress in the first district is to free the party from bossism." Reece also gave an interview to a reporter with the Knoxville Journal and Tribune, which had given his campaign favorable coverage. "I think that the people think that Sells, having been in office for the last ten years, has had it long enough, and that those things should be passed around," Reece said. It was a statement which would come back to haunt him politically.

Reece said he believed a congressman should devote full-time to working on behalf of the people he represented. A representative's time "should be divided three ways," Reece said. "He ought to be present to vote on the legislation which comes before congress, he should spend much time in study so that he might be prepared not only to vote intelligently but to frame legislation," Reece explained, "and he should make himself acquainted with the people of his district, so that he may become acquainted with their needs and desires."

"One of the greatest troubles with legislation in the past has been that the drafting of it was left in the hands of too few people," Reece said. The candidate went on to criticize Congressman Sells, whom he claimed "has been absent and failed to vote on 500 different measures" and then proceeded to tick off a list of bills Sells had failed to support or oppose, saying, "notably the bill providing for the direct election of senators by the

people, the federal reserve act; the war insurance act; the measure for the vocational rehabilitation of cripples in industry; bills appropriating money for the prosecution of trusts; the conference report on the Clayton anti-trust act; the deficiency bill and others." Reece thought "an explanation is due the people" by Sells for his vote against the income tax "and the measure for a tax on excess profits of corporations, which would have provided a tax on corporations and businesses, most of them in the north and east, in proportion to the benefits they received from the government" which Reece pointed out would be a help in "relieving the burden on the shoulders of the common people."

The Knoxville Journal and Tribune covered Reece's first campaign rally in "the staid old town of Greeneville", a place of "culture and refinement" which had been home to Andrew Johnson, "the great commoner." The reporter wrote people came from all over the district to hear Reece speak in Greeneville. There were apparently eight "carloads from Cocke county" and "two or more from Carter County" and perhaps as many from Johnson County. The Journal and Tribune reporter thought Carroll Reece was "growing and improving as he goes through the district."

Sam Sells had supporters of his own in the media of the day, who extended his own campaign favorable coverage. Perhaps the most outspoken newspaper advocating for the reelection of

Congressman Sells was the Jonesborough Herald and Tribune. The newspaper continually sniped at Carroll Reece and his candidacy. When the Reece campaign mentioned Judge Dana Harmon, who had run against Sells in 1918, the Herald and Tribune reminded its readers Carroll Reece was not Harmon. For one thing, according to the Herald and Tribune, "Reece isn't as popular as Judge Harmon was." The judge "could count scores of votes where Reece is unknown." The Herald and Tribune noted Harmon's "wide acquaintance and his splendid personality" which gave the judge "a decided advantage that Reece does not possess." Those attributes made Judge Dana Harmon "a more formidable fighter than Carroll Reece will ever be," the Herald and Tribune sniffed.

Sam R. Sells seemed somewhat overconfident as the GOP primary loomed in August. The congressman did not start speaking throughout the district until July 18, opening with a speech in Elizabethton. Evidently, the congressman's political strategy was to conduct "a whirlwind tour" of the district during the last three weeks of the campaign.

The Greenville Daily Sun published an article summing up the congressional contest as Reece supporters would have voters believe Sam R. Sells "was the meanest man who ever lived" while the young candidate was "the grandest mortal that has trodden this mundane sphere since the days of the Messiah." The Daily Sun noted the press releases issued by the Reece campaign would have one believe the candidate "is received wherever he goes with more pomp and splendor than was a Roman conqueror on his triumphal entry into the imperial city." The Daily Sun conjured an amusing image in the minds of its readers. "Bouquets are flung, the people cheer, the bells toll and the dogs howl" with the arrival of Carroll Reece. "His audiences are the largest assembled; the gentlemen who introduce him soar into the mystic realm of oratorical sublimity; Reece comes upon the rostrum under the magic spell of a mighty ovation. He delves into the unfathomed regions of political science, unravels mysteries that no other mind has been able to grasp and takes the charm out of Mark Anthony's oration at the tomb of Caesar. Enthusiasm runs rampant in the hearts of his listeners, applause rings out like thunders from Mount Olympus and Reece supporters became so numerous they cannot be counted."

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Golden Gloves contract on city council agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The Knoxville City Council's Tuesday meeting will deal with several agenda items focusing on local homeless efforts and an increasing crime rate. After wading through many requests for zoning changes and appeals, the council will consider a contract of \$75,000 to Golden Gloves Charities Inc. to provide amateur boxing programs in a request from Parks and Recreation.

Golden Gloves provides a safe environment for underprivileged youth to learn the sport of boxing. The City of Knoxville partners with Knoxville Golden Gloves to offer boxing for children and adults. The "Ace" Miller Golden Gloves Arena is located

in the Kerr Building at Chilhowee Park and has been closed during the pandemic.

The council may also approve an application for a grant to the 2021 Edward Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program for \$1 million with no matching local funds. If the application is approved the funds would go to combat serious and violent local crimes.

Another application for an Internet Crimes Against Children grant from the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice for \$1.2 million is on the agenda. If granted the funds would go toward employing an organizational strategy to build partners to provide further technological assistance.

Councilwoman Amelia Parker has a resolution asking Knoxville-Knox County Planning to consider

and make recommendations to the council on a new zoning district or new overlay district to establish regulations for temporary encampments to be used as part of the city's housing and shelter for the homeless.

The council is also being asked to donate \$4,800 in Community Empowerment funds to the World United Ministries to help with a Safe Haven Gym Program and Love Your Neighborhood Day. A separate \$5000 is being sought to go to Sleeves for Needs for shelter, food, clothing and hygiene products for individual homeless people.

Flying Anvil Theatre may receive \$1,000 toward rent support. One of the local professional theatre company's efforts, The Hammer Ensemble, uplifts the community by telling the stories

of underserved populations, highlighting social issues and training a diverse, dynamic ensemble of new performers.

In other action the city council may vote on permitting a 45-foot tall cross to be erected at 4805 Central Avenue Pike in front of a business there, increasing the size of the existing 18-foot monument. The council is also being asked to increase the amount of a contract for maintenance services of the citywide streetlight project.

Old Broadway may see a new sidewalk in a request from the Engineering Department. The \$1.6 million project may go to McKinnon Construction Company LLC.

The former state Supreme Court Building at 625 Cumberland Avenue, in the process of

being converted to apartments and retail space, may be granted permission to encroach on the public right-of-way and a proposed building at 425 South Gay Street may be granted the same permission.

Several zoning changes will also be before the council including properties at 8002 Kingston Pike, 1301 East Weisgarber Road, 0 Jackson Road, 931 Piney Grove Church, 200 Emmett Street and 1712 Liberty Street.

Two street name changes are proposed by the planning commission which would lengthen Marion Street. The name would apply to Leroy Avenue between Marion and Val Street and Val Street between Leroy Avenue and West Baxter Avenue.

Injunctions that Go into Place When a Divorce is Filed and Served

Oftentimes in a divorce case I will have a conversation with the client and they will say something like, "the second they get the paperwork they are going to go empty out our bank accounts." I tell them, "Well, they may, but once they are served, there are consequences if they do so because once they are served there are temporary injunctions that go into place that prevent them from cleaning out your all's assets."

The injunctions that go into place once a divorce is filed and served can be found at Tennessee Code Annotated section 36-4-106, and I have listed them



By Jedidiah McKeehan
attorneyknoxville@gmail.com

below, in full:
(1)(A) An injunction restraining and enjoining both parties from transferring, assigning, borrowing against, concealing or in any way dissipating or disposing, without the consent of the other party or an order of the court, of any marital property. Nothing herein is intended to preclude either of the parties from seeking broader injunctive relief from the court.

(B) Expenditures from current income to maintain the marital standard of living and the usual and ordinary costs of operating a business are not restricted by this injunction. Each party shall maintain records

of all expenditures, copies of which shall be available to the other party upon request.

(2) An injunction restraining and enjoining both parties from voluntarily canceling, modifying, terminating, assigning, or allowing to lapse for nonpayment of premiums, any insurance policy, including, but not limited to, life, health, disability, homeowners, renters, and automobile, where such insurance policy provides coverage to either of the parties or the children, or that names either of the parties or the children as beneficiaries without the consent of the other party or an order of the court. "Modifying" includes any change in beneficiary status.

(3) An injunction restraining both parties from

harassing, threatening, assaulting or abusing the other and from making disparaging remarks about the other to or in the presence of any children of the parties or to either party's employer.

(4) An injunction restraining and enjoining both parties from hiding, destroying or spoiling, in whole or in part, any evidence electronically stored or on computer hard drives or other memory storage devices.

(5) An injunction restraining both parties from relocating any children of the parties outside the state, or more than fifty (50) miles from the marital home, without the permission of the other party or an order of the court, except in the case of a removal based upon a well-founded fear of physical abuse against

either the fleeing parent or the child. In such cases, upon request of the nonrelocating parent, the court will conduct an expedited hearing, by telephone conference if appropriate, to determine the reasonableness of the relocation and to make such other orders as appropriate.

(6) The provisions of these injunctions shall be attached to the summons and the complaint and shall be served with the complaint. The injunctions shall become an order of the court upon fulfillment of the requirements of this subsection (d). However, nothing in this subsection (d) shall preclude either party from applying to the court for further temporary orders, an expanded temporary injunction, or modification or revocation of this

temporary injunction.

(7) The temporary injunctions provided in this section shall only apply to the spousal parties named in the petition and shall not apply to any third party named in the petition; provided, however, that nothing in this subsection (d) shall preclude any party from applying to the court for an order of injunctive or extraordinary relief against any other party named in any petition as provided by law or rule.

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

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3 for 3

Farragut's District win over Hardin Valley third this season

By Bill Howard

It's often said that it's hard to beat a team three times in the same season. On Thursday night, Farragut High School's boys' basketball team proved that need not be true.

WIN GUARANTEES ADMIRALS SPOT IN REGION

Combining eight three-pointers with a swarming defense, the third-seeded Admirals defeated sixth-seeded Hardin Valley Academy 67-52 in the quarterfinal round of the District 4AAA Tournament at Farragut. FHS's third win over HVA this season set up a road semifinal matchup with Maryville two nights later.

Admirals' coach Jon Higgins was pleased with his squad's total effort. "I thought we played extremely well," said the former Vol. "It was a good collective team effort. It was good to see some (3s) go down tonight. When we're shooting the ball well, we're hard to beat. We get good looks most of the time. Sometimes they don't go in, tonight they went in for the most part and that's always good to see.

"We struggled to score sometimes," said Hawks' coach Robert Wells. "If we can't turn you over ... that was the goal coming in, trying to turn them over, try to create offense off defense and we were not able to do that. They made us pay on every mistake we made and that's a sign of a good team."

Behind Ryan Neal's six first-quarter points, Farragut (12-11, 10-5 District 4AAA) led 13-7 after one. Each team made small runs in the second; an 8-4 finish by the Admirals put the halftime lead at 30-18. It appeared they might cruise to a win.

A 13-7 Hawks' run to start the third - led by three Hawks' treys - cut the lead to six, 37-31. But the Admirals then outscored HVA 13-5 the rest of the quarter to lead 50-36 at the end of three.

"We don't panic," said Higgins. "We've had times in the past where we might have panicked in that situation ... tonight we didn't

Continued on page 3



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS

Bearden's dance team was full of energy as it puts on a show at the Catholic vs. Bearden basketball game on Feb. 15 at BHS.

Bearden dance team to compete in TSSAA 'virtual' format

By Steve Williams

The show must go on!

Bearden High School's award-winning dance program will have a team participating in the 2020-21 TSSAA Championships, which will be conducted in an online "virtual" format this school year due to COVID-19.

Farragut and West Valley middle schools also have registered for the Dance Championships, said Trina Melton of the TSSAA Friday. There are no teams from Knoxville registered in the Cheer Championships, added Melton.

The TSSAA Championships recognize middle and high school cheer and dance teams in 35 categories of competition and are normally held in December of each school year.

TSSAA worked with the Universal Cheerleaders Association for several months to identify a suitable venue for holding the championships in person, but ultimately decided to hold the event virtually using UCA's online competition system.

Teams will film their routine in their own gym, football stadium or other facility with an NFHS-approved surface. Once recorded, teams will upload the video file of their routine to Varsity TV.



PHOTO BY JACK TATE

Farragut cheerleaders at a Feb. 4 basketball game are Alex Kate Cole, Mallory Deeson, Elli Kohlmyer, Emerson Kenney, Kate Franqui, Abby Mahoney, Bailey Luman and Eryn Williams.

No special equipment or software is required as coaches can simply film the team's routine on their smartphone or other camera.

A UCA / UDA trained judging panel will score the routines just as they would at an in-person event. The deadline for all video uploads is Wednesday (Feb. 24).

The TSSAA Cheer and Dance Virtual State Championships will then be available to the general public to watch on-demand on Varsity TV beginning March 6. Each team will receive one FREE one-month subscription to watch.

Bearden and Farragut high schools and Farragut Middle School brought home multiple state titles from the last Cheerleading and Dance Championships at MTSU in Murfreesboro on Dec. 7, 2019.

Bearden's dance team took first place in the Medium Varsity Jazz and Medium Varsity Pom categories.

Bearden has captured 11 state titles in all and seven consecutive Jazz titles.

Farragut took top honors in Small Varsity Jazz and Small Varsity Pom.

Farragut Middle School took

state titles in Jazz and Pom.

Packer is interim dance coach at FHS

Presley Packer, the new interim dance coach at Farragut, said "unfortunately" the FHS team will not be competing in this year's state championships.

"We've had three head coaches in the span of one year, along with COVID restrictions and multiple injuries on the team, so hearing that State was going to happen in a few weeks unfortunately didn't sound like a doable endeavor for this season," explained Packer. "As of now we are just preparing for next year."

Packer was a member of the Farragut dance team in high school and is nearing her senior year at UT.

She noted that the Farragut High team did dance at every home football game this year and multiple basketball games earlier in the season.

"We have continued to practice every week throughout the year, however, to keep our skill level up and prepare for next year. This team is definitely used to competition and performance being a normal part of their lives, so it has been disappointing to

Continued on page 2

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TSSAA WRESTLING

'Blood round' is where it counts for Halls

By Steve Williams

It's called the "blood round." And if you're a Halls High wrestler, it's where you want to get to and have success.

Coach Shannon Sayne named three on his team last week that may do just that this Friday in the TSSAA State Wrestling Championships at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

Halls' Jonathan Kizer (138 pounds), Caden Elliott (182) and Cainon Elkins (152) have been close to reaching the blood round in the past and have had good seasons this year.

"All of those guys have been right on the brink of placing at the state tournament," said Sayne. "Hopefully, this year is the year to get there and get it done."

"We call it the blood round, which is the round to place," said Sayne. "So, you win it, you place; and you lose it, you get nothin'."

"I don't know who termed that, but we call it the blood round of the state tournament. He (Elliott) was in that round last year and came up just a little bit short. We're hoping he can win that round this year."

A win in the blood round guarantees the wrestler a place in the Top 6 of his division, with a chance to keep advancing.

Kizer, Elkins and Elliott were three of the eight Halls mat men to win titles in the Region 2-AAA tournament at Anderson County on Feb. 13.



PHOTO BY CASSIE VAUGHN

Elizabethton's Trenton Taylor was 26-3, but Fulton heavyweight Seth Vaughn (top) pinned him in 43 seconds in the semifinals of the Region 1 A-AA tournament at Elizabethton on Feb. 13.

Kizer pinned his opponent in 42 seconds to improve his season record to 29-4. Elkins also won with a pin and takes a 30-6 record to the state. Elliott won a 5-4 decision and is 26-9.

Freshman 106-pounder Aiden Wright sparked Halls to a strong start as he recorded pins at 0:14 in the semis and 0:56 in the finals.

The Red Devils also got wins from Jeremy Peters (120), Sam Hutchison (126), Chase Russell (132) and Briar Whaley (145).

"We had a pretty good performance at the region

tournament and hopefully that sets those guys up for a pretty good draw at the state," said Coach Sayne.

Powell senior Brody Huskins remained undefeated (12-0) with a pin in the 170-pound weight class.

Garabrandt and Meade win in 3-AAA

Farragut senior Zach Garabrandt pinned his opponent in the 138-pound weight class as the Admirals hosted the Region 3-AAA tourney. The victory boosted his record to 22-4.

Matheson Meade, a Bearden senior, upped his record to 17-1 with a 6-0 shutout in the 170-pound division.

Hardin Valley's Brady Cums (106) and Bearden's Dylka Burns (126) also earned wins by decision.

Maryville edged Heritage 220 to 216.5 in the team scoring. Bearden was a distant third with 132 points.

No. 1 Baylor dominates Division II field

Baylor, the state's top-ranked team, rolled to the Division II East Region

championship at Knoxville Catholic.

CAK wrestlers led local teams in the field as Andrew Justice took second place in the 106-pound division, Parker Sapp lost a 6-4 decision and Hawk Dunn (145) placed third.

Catholic heavyweight Dean Lively and Webb School's Matthew Tieng (120) each placed fourth to qualify for state.

Chomping at the bits after postponement

It was four Saturdays

ago that Carter junior Jai-lynn Tindall (140 pounds) and Halls sophomore Haley Redmond (132) captured titles in the Girls East Region tournament. They are Knox County's best state title hopefuls.

The state meet was originally scheduled to be held last week, but icy road conditions in Middle and West Tennessee forced the TSSAA to reschedule the event for this week.

Class A-AA wrestlers compete Wednesday, Girls and Division II on Thursday and Class AAA on Friday.

Gibbs qualifies eight for state

Porter Finstad, Gibbs' 106-pounder, scored a 23-1 win by decision to get the Eagles off to a flying start in the Region 1 A-AA tournament at Elizabethton.

Gibbs also had five runners-up – Spencer Reep (120), Owen DeLuca (132), John Pittman (145), Elijah Hubbs (170) and Kirk Parsons (182).

Carter senior Austin Weir took second place in 195-pound weight class.

Fulton junior heavyweight Seth Vaughn came up on the short end of a 4-1 decision against Pigeon Forge senior Mustafi Algarawi (29-3) in the finals.

Pigeon Forge racked up 218.5 points in the team scoring. Greeneville (209) was second and Gibbs (139) third.

CAK baseball cranks out three more



By Steve Williams

Three more of Coach Tommy Pharr's baseball players at Christian Academy of Knoxville have earned college scholarships.

The latest signees are Ryan Degges (Columbia State), Ty Nettles (Volunteer State) and Tyler Wood (Motlow College).

Degges, who also was the quarterback on CAK's first 10-0 football team last season, lettered four years in baseball and two years in football.

Ryan also played on two state baseball championship teams, was a captain for two seasons on the football team and a member of the National Honor Society.

Nettles played four years on the Warriors' baseball team and was a two-year starter. He also played on the two state title teams.

Wood, a right-handed pitcher, played three seasons for Pharr.

CAK also had a football player to sign last week, with Noah Olsen inking scholarship papers with Berry College.

Olsen was a two-year starter and a 6-6, 218-pound TE-DE his senior season. He received post-season honors from 5-Star Preps and Knox News PrepXtra during his prep career.



CAK student-athletes (from left to right) Noah Olsen, Ryan Degges, Ty Nettles and Tyler Wood at last week's signing ceremony.

Robertsville girls and Newport boys win

East Tennessee had two teams to win state championships in the recent TMSA basketball tournament.

Robertsville Middle School of Oak Ridge won the Class AA girls' title with a 49-31 win over Martin Middle at Stewart Creek High in Smyrna. Zeyana Stewart scored 17 points to lead the Lady Rams. Ayana Porter and Jeana Johnson chipped in 11 each.

In the Class A boys' finals, Newport Grammar School defeated South Lawrence Middle 34-30 in overtime. Kyler Hayes led the Warriors with 19 points and Will Sutton added 10.

In other games, Alcoa's boys, who eliminated Farragut in the state sectional round, was ousted in the Class AAA state semifinals,

falling to Blackman Middle of Murfreesboro 40-31.

Alcoa led 24-16 after three quarters but was outscored 24-7 in the final six minutes as Blackman made 11 of 13 free throws.

New Center Elementary of Sevierville lost to West Junior High of Oakland 57-39 in the Class AA boys' finals.

Road to Fame applications go out soon

Applications for nominees to the Class of 2021 Halls High Athletics' Road to Fame will be put out on March 1 at the following locations: Phil Nichols State Farm office, Home Federal Bank in Halls, the TVA Credit Union office and Hallsdale / Powell Utility office.

Nominees must have been graduated from Halls High for five years to be

eligible.

Each application should include a photograph and a resume of the nominee's sports achievements in high school and beyond.

The applications will be available through April.

Members of the Road to Fame Board of Directors would like to encourage people in the Halls and Fountain City area, who are associated with former outstanding athletes at Halls High, to make it a point to fill out and turn in an application so the selection committee has a broader scope of athletes to select from.

Bernard Childress' contract extended

The contract of TSSAA Executive Director Bernard Childress has been extended another three years. His current contract expires on June 30, 2021.

'Thank you Gibbs High!'

Central Athletic Director JD Lambert wants to publicly say 'thank you' to Gibbs High School and AD Jeff Thomas for making it possible for Central to play a basketball game against Clinton at Gibbs on Tuesday, Feb. 9, after a water line broke at Central High that afternoon.

"Being able to move our game to Gibbs made it possible for us to have school the next day and avoid having to play three straight nights of basketball," said Lambert. "They (Gibbs) had everything set up and all we had to do was show up and play."

"I also appreciated the willingness of Clinton Athletic Director Brad Collette and Coach Chris Lockard to move the game to Gibbs."

Bearden dance team to compete in TSSAA 'virtual' format

Cont. from page 1

have to sacrifice some of that this season due to a number of circumstances, but it will only make us appreciate it that much more in the future."

Farragut took top honors in Small Varsity Jazz and Small Varsity Pom in the 2019 TSSAA Championships. At the UDA Nationals, Farragut finished second in the Small Pom category and third in the Small Jazz category.

Cheer teams won't compete at state

Bearden and Farragut's cheer teams won't be competing in the TSSAA's virtual format this year.

"We were going to compete this fall (in December), but given the Governor's Orders and TSSAA continuing to give no date for our competition previously, we assumed that our season was over," said Farragut Cheer Coach Nicole Pendleton.

"Truly, it breaks my heart. We have such an incredibly talented team that would have fought for a National title. I'm sad that our girls' talent isn't being able to be showcased this year."

"Unfortunately, I have eight seniors that will add this to another "missed opportunity" for the year. However, we are grateful for what we are able to do this year."

A number of memorable occurrences

There was always a special feeling to working in the William B. Stokely Athletics Center with Haywood Harris and Bud Ford. Many, if not most, of us who worked there had walked the rolling hills of campus, had sat in the classrooms, and had a personal investment in the growth and development of the University of Tennessee.

It wasn't too far from our offices to the playing floor, where so many great moments in Tennessee hoops history took place. If you listened carefully, you could hear Ward's staccato baritone calling the action on the Vol Network, buttressed by Haywood's voice on the arena's public address system. John Ward called Haywood's contribution to the games at Stokely a "special sound," adding to the arena's ambience. During my time at UTAD, there were a number of memorable occurrences. When Haywood died in June 2009, I wrote a p. 2 Knoxville News Sentinel sports section story

("Memories of a 'Vols' legend, good man"). It concluded as follows: "They say a man needs six friends, so his wife won't have to hire pallbearers. In Haywood's case, that shouldn't be a problem. The line stretches out the door, down the street, and as far as the eye can see. Haywood Harris' friends were everybody he ever knew."

There was the day in June 1998 that Ward announced that the 1998-99 season would be his and Bill Anderson's last in football, his finale in basketball. Ward's prepared statement was brief.

"I have a prepared statement, and I'm going to read it... verbatim. It's time."

When Ward died in June 2018, memories came like rushing waters of a man who influenced us all greatly, much the same way Haywood and Bud had. His broadcast style was light years ahead of its time. He presided over coaches' shows that were equally trailblazing. He brought home the story of Tennessee athletics in a manner that could never be duplicated.

I made one trip home from Nashville after a basketball game at Vanderbilt



Just before he died in mid-October 1966, William B. Stokely, Jr., joined UT's Charlie Brakebill (left) for a tour of the arena that bore Stokely's name. Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee Sports Information Office.

with Ward, Bob Gilbert, and Ed Balloff. We stopped at the Waffle House in Cookeville early the next morning. As we entered, Ward looked in my general direction and

said, "We'll be here exactly 18 minutes." And we were. I had spotted for Ward on the Vol Network and also worked with Bob Bell and Randy Smith on the

Comcast Television delayed broadcasts. I had also spotted for NBC's Charley Jones at the 1992 Fiesta Bowl and for Tom Hammond at the 2001 Notre Dame game.

There's the ever-present memory of an ashen-faced Bill Walsh, the analyst for NBC telecasts of Notre Dame football, leaving the broadcast area after Tennessee had stolen a 35-34 victory at Notre Dame Stadium in 1991, rallying from a 31-7 deficit. On the Vol Network broadcast, Ward had said, "You could not write this script."

My time at Tennessee was really about my colleagues. There were numerous breakfasts at the Varsity Inn with Ken Duncan, one of the department's computer gurus, facility manager Gene McCarter, and Ackron Parris Porter, called "Mr. Porter" by nearly everybody.

There were, however, several days' time seemed to stand still. In August 1992, we mourned the sudden death of Tim Kerin, the trainer who had come to Tennessee with John Majors and was one of his closest confidantes. Several days later, we found out that Majors was undergoing

open-heart surgery and would miss the first three games of the season.

In November 1992, Majors resigned at a media conference in Memphis the night before the Memphis State game. In September 2001, the news that the twin towers in New York City and other venues on the east coast had been the site of terrorist attacks stopped us all in our tracks. In early 2004, the Vol Network's Edwin Huster died suddenly the day before the Tennessee-Louisville basketball game.

What U. T. alum Lindsey Nelson wrote after leaving Shea Stadium for the final time was never more appropriate than the day Stokely Athletics Center became nothing but a memory.

"As the limousine moved along the service road leading out to Roosevelt Avenue, I looked out the back window to the huge stadium, casting its shadow in the late afternoon sun."

It was a moment to be remembered. And savored. "And I realized I had left a lot of my life there."

For its part, Stokely Athletics Center holds special memories for all of us who likewise left a great deal of our lives there.

3 for 3

Farragut's District win over Hardin Valley

Cont. from page 1

panic, so hopefully that's a sign of growth." In the final frame, HVA would never get closer than 14, as the teams traded baskets. Neal led all scorers with 16. Farragut had three other players in double figures: Carter Mayfield with 12, Dallas Carbaugh with 11, and Dillon Atwater with 10.

Justin Sharp and Dale Henley led HVA (5-12, 4-11) with 11. Wells said after the game it wasn't his best coaching effort.

"I don't know, I told our guys I didn't think I did a very good job with 'em tonight," Wells said. "I think I tried to do too much, maybe have us thinking too much where they (Farragut) were just reacting and playing. And it showed ... they felt confident in everything they did. They shot it well. I think that was the difference."

Said Higgins: "I thought we handled their pressure well. I watched them play on Tuesday, they were real physical, and we made that

a point in our practice the last few days, to be able to handle their physicality. On the perimeter I thought we did a really good job of that tonight."

The win guaranteed Farragut a trip to the Regional tournament. The winner of their game against Maryville is scheduled to play the Bearden-West winner for the District championship on Feb. 23. Bearden is the district's top seed. Higgins is confident heading into his team's third game against the Rebels. The teams split the first two, each winning on the road.

"I think Maryville's a really good basketball team but so are we," Higgins said. "So we have a lot of confidence going into Saturday. We'll go there and give it our best shot."

The Hawk's season ended Thursday night, but Wells is optimistic about the future. "We have the majority of the team back," he said. "We got a lot of talent coming back. I think we're headed in the right direction."

Tennessee football from 30,000 feet

By Mark Nagi

It is just after midnight local time as I write this article from 30,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean. That makes it 5 a.m. in Knoxville.

I'm coming back from a vacation in Hawaii. This was my first time out there. It took me 48 years to make the journey and I hope it doesn't take another 48 to make it back there.

I'm exhausted and can't sleep on the plane because while the cabin is mostly dark, my seat is right next to the brightest lightbulb in this hemisphere. Like John Currie during a coaching search, I also inadvertently picked a plane without Wi-Fi, so the struggle is real.

Folks, I'm not writing all of this to look for sympathy, but only to let you know that I care about you so much that I'm willing to put up with this much hardship to write this article.

While I have been away, new Tennessee football coach Josh Heupel finished assembling his offensive coaching staff, and finally got someone to fill the defensive coordinator opening.

As I type on my tablet this high in the sky, I wonder what Tennessee football looks like to those far removed from the football program.

Since most of us live in Knoxville, we are inundated with Tennessee

football news 365 days a year. There is no off season anymore. From recruiting to spring practice to SEC media days to the season itself, we don't get much of a break from the trials and tribulations of this program.

While the national sports media looked at the 2017 coaching search as a group of country bumpkins getting upset and pitching a fit because Tennessee didn't hire Jon Gruden, those truly connected to the program knew that the issues dug much deeper.

I mean, how could you truly understand what had been going on at Tennessee if you weren't there for every misstep along the way?

Now it is 2021, and Tennessee has had over three years of more mistakes. The glorious times are further and further in the rearview every day. Heck, the biggest connection to those halcyon days, Peyton Manning, hasn't thrown a football in a competitive game in over five years.

From 30,000 feet, Tennessee's football program looks like it is a relic, stuck in the past with no plan to mend their litany of self-inflicted wounds.

At least, that was the case before the hiring of Danny White as athletics director.

Whether you agree with his hiring of Heupel or not, the University of Tennessee has realized that the old ways of doing business, both on and off the field, won't work anymore.

Former AD Phillip Fulmer's heart was in the right place, but his hiring of Jeremy Pruitt will not be looked at fondly as the years pass. Pruitt was trying to win the Alabama way... but the Alabama way as it was about ten years ago. The game has changed, and you have to be able to put points on the board to have a chance to compete in the SEC.

Pruitt's stubbornness didn't just make Tennessee boring. It made the Vols an afterthought. It wasn't just that they weren't winning (16-19 in his three years). It was that they were getting throttled by their biggest rivals, as well as the teams they should always beat (I'm looking at you, Kentucky).

From 30,000 feet I can tell you that Tennessee's problems are indeed large... but they are fixable.

I get asked quite often if Tennessee will ever be Tennessee again. That is an open-ended question. Forever is a long time.

Let's just hope it happens in our lifetime.

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Lady Devils use balanced attack to qualify for region tournament

By Ken Lay

Halls High School girls basketball coach Savannah Harrison couldn't have been much happier than she was Wednesday night.

Harrison has seen the Lady Devils put in some hard work and the labor paid off with an 86-51 victory over Karns in the District 3-AAA quarterfinals.

"I am just so proud of my team. They've worked really hard," Harrison said after

Halls, the tournament's No. 3 seed, routed the Lady Beavers and clinched a spot in the upcoming Region 2-AAA Tournament. "I'm extremely proud of our girls because they've come in here for optional workouts and to get shots up on their days off and the work is paying off."

The extra work certainly paid dividends early for the Lady Devils, who opened a 14-0 lead over Karns, which

finishes the season with a 9-13 record, out of the gate.

The Lady Devils (16-8) boasted balanced and potent offensive attack with point guard Macy Kirby leading the way with 31 points despite being saddled by foul trouble all game long.

Harrison said that her team's depth was the difference against the Lady Beavers, who battled valiantly after falling behind in the

early stages of the contest.

"Karns played hard but I feel like we've had as much depth as we've had here in years," Harrison said. "Of course I'm biased but I feel like we have more depth than anybody in our district. We have more depth and we have more and better shooters."

In addition to Kirby's stellar performance, the Lady Devils, who led 53-25 at halftime, got 10 points from

Michaela Allen. Cierra Huff chipped in with nine points on the strength of three long-range jumpers.

Sophie Tharpe and Brook Cox scored eight points each while Ella Tharpe and Kiera Everett added six points apiece. Megan Bilitier had four points and Olivia Culp finished with three.

Halls may have moved on but the Lady Beavers made a run in the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Devils

18-7 in the frame and trimming Halls High's lead to 60-43 by the end of the period.

Alyssa Maples scored 21 points to pace the Lady Beavers. She had 10 in the third quarter as Karns attempted to claw its way back into the contest.

Halls was set to face Powell Friday night but results were not available at press time.

Edwards leads Irish past Bearden in powerhouse showdown

By Ken Lay

A stellar performance from one of the county's top players sparked a late rally that secured a victory for the Catholic High School boys basketball early last week.

Irish junior point guard B.J. Edwards scored 16 of his game-high 34 points in the fourth quarter to propel Catholic to a 61-51 victory over Bearden on the road in a non-league showdown between a pair of Knoxville Area heavyweights.

No one was surprised by Edwards' clutch performance on the big stage on Monday, Feb. 15.

He's started for three seasons and has already garnered multiple Division I scholarship offers and is a Mr. Basketball Finalist.

Oh, and he's also the reigning Division II-A State Tournament Most Valuable Player after leading Catholic to the 2020 state championship.

"That's just what he does," Irish coach Mike Hutchens said of Edwards. "That's what he does in big games. He's averaging 20 points per game."

"He was feeling it tonight. In that fourth quarter, he was getting his shot and it was going down."

Edwards certainly impressed Bulldogs' coach Jeremy Parrott in a game that featured two defending state champions and two of the top teams in the Volunteer State this season.

"I thought he made winning plays," Parrott said. "He's their best player and that's what he's supposed to do."

With the win, the Irish improved to 19-3 while the Bulldogs dropped to 24-3 with their only losses coming to Catholic and Hamilton Heights, an independent national powerhouse from the Chattanooga Area. The Irish knocked off the Bulldogs 60-49 at Catholic in December.



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

Catholic's Handje Tamba (32) and Bearden's Elijah Bredwood battle for the basketball in a game between two KIL heavyweights last week. The Irish outlasted the Bulldogs 61-51 on Monday, Feb. 15.

But Parrott didn't provide much solace for Parrott, which picked up a second tilt against Catholic and the game against Hamilton Heights due to some COVID-19-related cancellations.

"I don't like losing. I don't care who we play against," Parrott said. "I feel like we picked up two formidable opponents but not two that we couldn't overcome."

"It's frustrating that we couldn't overcome either one of them."

The first quarter was a draw as the two teams slugged and the game was in a 15-15 deadlock heading to the second frame.

Bearden had a 29-26 lead at halftime before the Irish went ahead for good with a 17-6 run in the third stanza.

Blue Cain added 14 points for Catholic while Elijah Bredwood led the Bulldogs with 13.

Hutchens said Bearden provided a big test for his team.

"They've got a good ball club but we're playing well right now," Hutchens said. "We picked up this game because we needed a game and he needed a game. We need games and these are the games we need to get us ready for the tournament."



PHOTO BY LUTHER SIMMONS.

Bearden High guard Zneyah McLaughlin battles two Catholic defenders in a game last week. McLaughlin scored 17 points in the Lady Bulldogs' 59-39 comeback victory.

McLaughlin leads Lady Bulldogs past Catholic 59-39

By Ken Lay

The Bearden High School girls basketball team has won some big games this season.

The Lady Bulldogs recently snapped Ensworth's 60-game game winning streak but they had to survive an upset bid from Catholic High School last week.

The Lady Irish (11-16) started fast but Bearden pulled away late and claimed a 59-39 victory in their regular-season finale on Monday, Feb. 15 at Bearden High School.

Catholic had a 15-8 advantage after the first quarter. The Lady Irish held a slim 22-21 advantage at halftime against Bearden (24-1).

The Lady Irish were able to keep things close by

making seven 3-pointers in the contest.

Sydney Mains, Sharon Wilson and Jeila Greenlee each made two long-range jumpers and Kate Pettinger added one for the Catholic, which has one of the most improved teams in the area.

But in the end, the Lady Bulldogs pulled away and claimed the victory.

Zneyah McLaughlin had a game-high 17 points and was one of four Bearden players to post double figures in the scoring. Emily Gonzalez, Avery Treadwell and Jennifer Sullivan each scored 11 points for Bearden.

Greenlee scored 16 points to lead the Lady Irish. Mains added 10 and Wilson finished with six.

NOTABLES FROM KNOXVILLE



HOMER AND JETHRO

Homer and Jethro were a famous duo who performed satirical versions of popular songs.

Henry D. Hayes was "Homer" and Kenneth C. Burns was "Jethro." They received a Grammy Award in 1959 and were members of the County Music Hall of Fame.

The Burns family moved to Knoxville when Kenneth was three years old. Hayes was born near Knoxville. The pair originally, as teenagers, performed as "Junior and Dude."

The duo began in 1936 on WNOX-AM when they were just 16 years old. The station manager changed their professional name. They became regulars on the Renfro Valley Barn Dance. Drafted to serve in WWI they returned to Knoxville after the war and performed on the Midwestern Hayride in Cincinnati. They also backed up other musicians including Moon Mullican, Chet Atkins, and the Carter Family.

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The Doctor is in

a weekly column by
Dr. Jim Ferguson

Influencers

For in him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28

Our days might come to 70 years, or 80 if our strength endures... Psalm 90:10

I didn't know the term influencer until the last year or so. Perhaps this is because I am largely absent from social media. Sometimes "news" items describe people as influencers, so I researched the term and the definition is straightforward. An influencer is a person or thing that influences someone. By that definition, advertising is a technique used to influence us. And make no mistake, we are mightily influenced, even manipulated, by the surveillance capitalists of Silicon Valley (Facebook, Twitter, Google, Amazon).

I was recently challenged by the question, "who" are the five

influencers in your life? I consider this a more relevant question than what "things" influence your life. The writer in Guideposts averred that the people you spend the most time with are the principal influencers in your life. That seems logical. Sheepishly, I admitted that my first thought was of my wife Becky. I do spend more time with her than anyone else. I'm hopeful the Lord understands this hierarchy of thought. After all, I am more a creature of the here and now rather than "the world to come" (a Jewish concept).

In the header, I quote Paul debating the epicurean and stoic philosophers in Athens during his 2nd missionary journey. Paul was a passionate influencer for Christ. He was a learned man and no shoddy philosopher as the Greek's learned. With a little research I

discovered that Paul was actually quoting a pre-Socratic philosopher from Crete named Epimenides. What a cutting barb to quote one of their own philosophers in his argument for Christ. And in Act 17:22 Paul began his apologetic defense of the Way by acknowledging that these elite philosophers seemed "very religious." Again, research tells me this phrasing is only used once in the Bible and contextually could be complementary or cynically imply superstition. Some of my critics should similarly be wary of my apologetics.

Some years ago I happened upon a perspective called panentheism (not pantheism). One explanation of this complex term is that everything exists within the created sphere of God. Even evil. It is gratifying that I stumbled upon the same conclusions of reality as Epimenides and Paul, and demonstrates a Fergism: "Very few things have not been thought of before!"

Recently, a reader railed that I write about things that are not explicitly "medical." Actually, his comments were poorly conceived and not worthy of a reply, but it made me reconsider the power of hatred. There is little I can do or say to someone who thinks I should just

go to the back of the bus and shut up. Professor Harold Black and I have both pushed back against leftist intolerance and cancel culture. We still have freedom of speech and thought at The Knoxville Focus.

Influencers abound in the media under the ruse of "news." CNN and MSNBC and the NYT are still protecting the odious Andrew Cuomo. Tony Fauci flip-flops daily in his "science" proclamations, and POTUS signs anything his non-elected influencers put in front of him.

I was keeping my Grans last week and watching what they were watching. In other words I was keeping an eye on their influencers. Cartoons are different than when I was a kid. Gosh, that sounds "old" to make that analogy!

I grew up with Merrie Melodies and Looney Toons. I learned to appreciate classical music from Bugs Bunny and Heckle and Jeckel. I learned the concept of a muse watching the tiny devil and angel on opposite shoulders of a cartoon character. As these influencers whisper into the character's ear, his conscience struggles to choose right or wrong. I don't see that in today's moral relativism which eschews an absolute.

But I'm old school and also labeled as a racist, sexist, homophobe and a bigot because I disagree with the left's manipulative political correctness, wokeness and the rejection of free speech.

About 25 years ago my wife influenced me to begin listening to Rush Limbaugh. His bedrock conservative principles resonated with me, so I became a regular listener. If you never tried Rush it's too bad because he died last week after living threescore and ten. Limbaugh was a big guy who lived large. His bombast turned off some, but this was his shtick. And he was a virtuoso influencer and articulator of conservative principles.

President Trump was an influencer of Americanism. He opposed leftists, big tech oligarchs, the crony capitalists of Wall Street and the Washington elites. And they hated him for it.

President Trump in many ways reminds me of President Andrew Jackson who was also despised by the establishment. No man is without flaws, but I would choose either of these presidents over the likes of Romneys, McConnells and Cuomos of the world. And as Texans freeze from frozen windmills and solar panels

covered with snow, and Chicago style murders arrive in Knoxville, history will vindicate President Trump, not AOC or "blue" governors and mayors.

Last week I listened to the impassioned plea of a Knoxville woman for more police presence in her neighborhood and for people to cooperate with the investigations of murdered Knoxville children. Even Minneapolis is having second thoughts of defunding the police. Folks, there are consequences for the choices we make.

As a writer, a teacher and a doctor, I claim the title of influencer, though you won't find me on Instagram! But as I conclude this essay I want to return to those who influence me the most. These include my wife and my Grans with whom I spend the most time. I also list family and some trusted friends, and my readers, who I vicariously spend time with writing these columns.

However, in this new year I've pledged to spend more time in the Word. I'm seeking the wisdom of The Great Physician and principal Influencer.

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

Something good out of the bad

COVID-19 has just about worn all of us out. We aren't used to being confined for such long periods of time. Many people haven't been out except to the grocery store for a year. Yes, some have developed rather snippy, hateful dispositions, but although such behavior is never

acceptable, it is understood. What I have noticed during these months is that the kindness of many human souls has eased some of the hard times.

Amy sent me to the grocery store the other day in search of blueberries. I hopped in the car and enjoyed the ride outside of Ball Camp. Once there,



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

I strapped on my mask and retrieved a big bag of the berries. Circles on the floor showed folks where to stand to safely distance, and I found my mark. A younger man with a loaded cart looked at me and told me to go ahead of him since I only had one item. The person in front of him

had his groceries on the conveyor belt but told me to go ahead of him as well. In no time, I was in and out and on the way home.

It seems that people are more aware of others around themselves. They aren't in such a hurry to complete tasks and get back home. Our inabilities to communicate with others on a

daily basis makes those times when we are together more special. People want to be nice to each other. They want to soak in the company of others, even if doing so demands a mask and six feet. Maybe I'm just naïve; perhaps people are really allowing others to go ahead of them because they don't want to return to their confinement. I like the first idea better.

Most of us who are alive today had never faced a crisis like our parents did. The Great Depression caused families to lose homes, jobs, and food supplies. Now, we see the same kind of events befalling our world. It's nice to see how many people are working to make sure others have enough to eat. Food distributions, large and small, have

helped parents provide food for their children. We agonize when the photos of hungry children are flashed on the television screen or across the newspaper. The concern and call to action to help others is surely something the good lord sees and blesses with a smile.

Politics had gotten in our way for a few months, but now, it seems that many of the divisions between families and friends have disappeared. Conversation topics turn more to family members' well-being and good health. We all want to receive a vaccination as soon as possible, but we want them for our families before ourselves. Even social media posts are kinder and gentler. Prayers for those who are in the throes of illness dominate.

A lost dog's photo pops up in hopes that owners and pets can be reunited; the finders keep the pooches at their houses as long as possible and love and feed them.

Controlling this raging pandemic is my prayer. I'd like for the world to regain some of its balance. However, I'd also include in my prayer the wish that the kindness, goodwill, and concern among people continues. Whether a storm of disease of any other tragedy befalls us, I hope we've learned that each of us is the other's brother or sister. A vaccination of kindness against indifference is a world-changing thing as well. Be safe and take care of each other.

Ready to MOVE In!

Commit to Moving by March 15,
Receive Your **FIRST** Month's Rent*
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*And No Community Fee

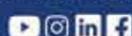
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COURT NOTICES

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

PATRICIA STANSBERRY Vs. JOSHUA STANSBERRY
Docket # 150673

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this cause, it appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the defendant JOSHUA STANSBERRY is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JOSHUA STANSBERRY.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer to an action of COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE filed by PATRICIA STANSBERRY, Plaintiff therein, with the Fourth Circuit Court in Knoxville, Tennessee, and with SAMUEL B. TIPTON, Plaintiffs Attorney whose address is 206 S. WASHINGTON ST. MARYVILLE, TN 37804, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication, and if you do not answer or otherwise respond, a Default Judgment may be entered against you on the thirtieth (30th) day after the fourth (4th) publication. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks. This the 27TH day of JANUARY, 2021.

Mike Hammond, Clerk

Michelle Henry, Deputy Clerk

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: KATY M. PFEFFER. IN RE: TAMARA L. PFEFFER v. KATY M. PFEFFER
NO. 201306-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Defendant KATY M. PFEFFER, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon KATY M. PFEFFER, it is ordered that said defendant KATY M. PFEFFER file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court in Knoxville, Tennessee and with Melanie J. Hogg, an Attorney whose address is, 1522 Highland Avenue Knoxville, TN 37916, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause will be set for hearing Ex-Parte as to you before Chancellor Clarence E. Pridemore, Jr. in the Knox County Chancery Court Part II at 400 W. Main Street Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks.

This 1st day of February 2021.

Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: SHAWN HALE IN RE: RICHARD H. BURRIS, JR. v. SHAWN HALE
NO. 201270-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause appearing from the Complaint filed, which is verified, that the Defendant, SHAWN HALE, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon SHAWN HALE.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Glen B. Rutherford, an Attorney whose address is, P.O. Box 1668 Knoxville, TN 37901, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before Chancellor Clarence E. Pridemore, Jr. at the Knox County Chancery Court, Part II, 400 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 8th day of February 2021.

Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: JEREMIAH LEWIS MILLER IN RE: LAURA KAY WISE v. JEREMIAH LEWIS MILLER
NO. 199495-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause appearing from the Complaint filed, which is verified, that the Defendant, JEREMIAH LEWIS MILLER, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JEREMIAH LEWIS MILLER.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendant file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Michael B. Menefee, an Attorney whose address is, 9724 Kingston Pike, Suite 505 Knoxville, TN 37922, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Part II, 400 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 8th day of February 2021.

Clerk

and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, TENNESSEE

JAMES TODD SHOPE and MARLENA GRACE SHOPE, Petitioners, v. RACHAEL LOUISE COCHRAN, Respondents.

Case No. 3836

In this cause, it appearing from the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption filed, which is verified, that the Respondent, Rachael Louise Cochran, is unknown or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent

search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him.

IT IS ORDERED that said Respondent, Rachael Louise Cochran, file an answer with the Clerk of the Circuit Court at Maynardville, Tennessee and with Travis D. Patterson, an Attorney whose address is,

P.O. Box 70586 Knoxville, Tennessee 37938, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice or the same will be taken for confessed as to Respondent and judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before the Chancery Court, 901 Main Street, Suite 206, Maynardville, Tennessee 37807. This notice will be published in the Knoxville Focus for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 18th day February, 2021. ENTERED 18 day of February.

S/ TRAVIS PATTERSON, ESQ

TRAVIS O. PATTERSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 70586 KNOXVILLE,
TENNESSEE 37908
(865) 306-0JJK

Attorney for Petitioners BPR NO. 030640
P.O. Box 70586
Knoxville, Tennessee 37938
Ph.: (865) 306-0333

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

TO: PATRICK JOHN BLANCO, II

IN RE: JEANNA RACQUEL BLANCO v. PATRICK JOHN BLANCO, II
NO. 200266-3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In this Cause appearing from the Complaint filed, which is sworn to, that the Defendant, PATRICK JOHN BLANCO, II is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon PATRICK JOHN BLANCO, II it is ordered that said defendant file an answer with the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee and with Meghan A. Bodie, an Attorney whose address is, 800 S. Gay Street, Suite 1650, Knoxville, TN 37929, within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication of this notice, or a judgment by default will be taken against you and the cause set for hearing Ex Parte as to you before Chancellor Christopher D. Heagerty at the Knox County Chancery Court, Part III, 400 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. This notice will be published in The Knoxville Focus Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. This 17th day of February 2020.

Clerk and Master

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE

To: JOEY DEWAYNE THOMPSON and ASIA DENISE COX a/k/a Asia Thompson, KNOXVILLE TVA EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, v. JOEY DEWAYNE THOMPSON and ASIA DENISE COX a/k/a Asia Thompson, Nos. 29299K and 29300K.

IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT FOR KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

In these Causes, it appearing from the Civil Warrants filed, which are sworn to, that the defendants, JOEY DEWAYNE THOMPSON and ASIA DENISE COX a/k/a Asia Thompson, are Non-Residents of the State of Tennessee, or whose whereabouts cannot be ascertained upon diligent search and inquiry, so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon JOEY DEWAYNE THOMPSON and ASIA DENISE COX a/k/a Asia Thompson.

IT IS ORDERED that said defendants appear before the General Sessions Court of Knox County, Tennessee, held at the Old Knox County Courthouse, 5th General Sessions Courtroom, 3d Floor, 300 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee on March 22, 2021, and make defense to the Civil Warrants filed against them in Case Nos. 29299K and 29300K; otherwise, said Civil Warrants shall be taken for confessed, and the causes proceed with ex parte.

Counsel to the plaintiff is William L. Cooper, III, 2008 E. Magnolia Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37917. This Notice shall be published in the Knoxville Focus for two consecutive weeks. Dated this 16th day of February, 2021, Mr. Charles D. Susano, III, Clerk, P.O. Box 379, Knoxville, Tennessee 37901.

This 17th day of February
Charles A. Cerny, Jr., Judge

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF ROY HENDREN ADAMS
DOCKET NUMBER 83438-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters administration in respect of the Estate of ROY HENDREN ADAMS who died Jul 19, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 5 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF ROY HENDREN ADAMS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TRACY BADGETT; ADMINISTRATRIX
123 RAILWAY LANE SE
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35803

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAY A BAYLESS
DOCKET NUMBER 84039-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 10 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JAY A BAYLESS who died Nov 14, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the

Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 10 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF JAY A BAYLESS

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
BONNIE BAYLESS; EXECUTRIX
113 ESSEX DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

T SCOTT JONES ATTORNEY AT LAW
2125 MIDDLEBROOK PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37921

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BEN D BRABSON, JR.
DOCKET NUMBER 84026-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BEN D BRABSON, JR. who died Jan 6, 2021, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 5 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF BEN D BRABSON, JR.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
ELAINE D BRABSON; EXECUTRIX
310 ALTHROPE WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

KEITH BURROUGHS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 2047
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JAMES W CONOVER
DOCKET NUMBER 84071-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JAMES W CONOVER who died Dec 12, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 8 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF JAMES W CONOVER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
SHANNON REMINGTON; EXECUTRIX
8003 RIVER DRIVE
OAK RIDGE, TN. 37830

DUSTIN S CROUSE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
9111 CROSS PARK DRIVE, SUITE D200
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF THOMAS MILLER CROSS, III
DOCKET NUMBER 84080-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of THOMAS MILLER CROSS, III who died Jan 9, 2021, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 9 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF THOMAS MILLER CROSS, III

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S) SONYA ANNITA CROSS; EXECUTRIX 1607 MEADOW CHASE LANE KNOXVILLE, TN. 37931

STEVE MERRITT ATTORNEY
AT LAW 609 GENO CIRCLE
MARYVILLE, TN. 37803

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF NANCY E DAYTON
DOCKET NUMBER 84016-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of NANCY E DAYTON who died Dec 5, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County,

Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 8 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF NANCY E DAYTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
DEBORAH H MALONE; EXECUTRIX
2017 ISLAND HOME BLVD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37920

AMANDA M BUSBY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 2588
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37901

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF WILLIAM F FRAKER
DOCKET NUMBER 84073-3

Notice is hereby given that on the 8 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of WILLIAM F FRAKER who died Dec 31, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 8 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM F FRAKER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
REBECCA JANE HAMLLEY COX; EXECUTRIX
1102 BURNING TREE LANE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37923

ROBERT W GODWIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
4611 OLD BROADWAY
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BENJAMIN TAYLOR HANNAH
DOCKET NUMBER 83954-1

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters administration in respect of the Estate of BENJAMIN TAYLOR HANNAH who died Aug 7, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred.

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 5 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF BENJAMIN TAYLOR HANNAH

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
MELISSA W HANNAH; ADMINISTRATRIX
6529 BURNETT CREEK ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37920

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BETTY REEDER HOUSTON
DOCKET NUMBER 84075-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 9 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of BETTY REEDER HOUSTON who died Nov 28, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 9 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF BETTY REEDER HOUSTON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
LAURA LEE HOUSTON
STURGIS; CO-EXECUTOR
11307 TURKEY CREEK ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

ELIZABETH REEDER
HOUSTON; CO-EXECUTOR
725 HARBOR WAY
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934

FLETCHER SCOTT HOUSTON; CO-EXECUTOR
6020 MCNEELY ROAD
CORRYTON, TN 37721

DALLIS H HOWARD
ATTORNEY AT LAW
4820 OLD KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37919

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JOHNNIE V KAUKER
DOCKET NUMBER 84015-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of JOHNNIE V KAUKER who died Nov 13, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. This the 5 day of FEBRUARY, 2021.

ESTATE OF JOHNNIE V KAUKER

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)
CHRISTOPHER W KAUKER;
EXECUTOR 12439 EARLY ROAD
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37922

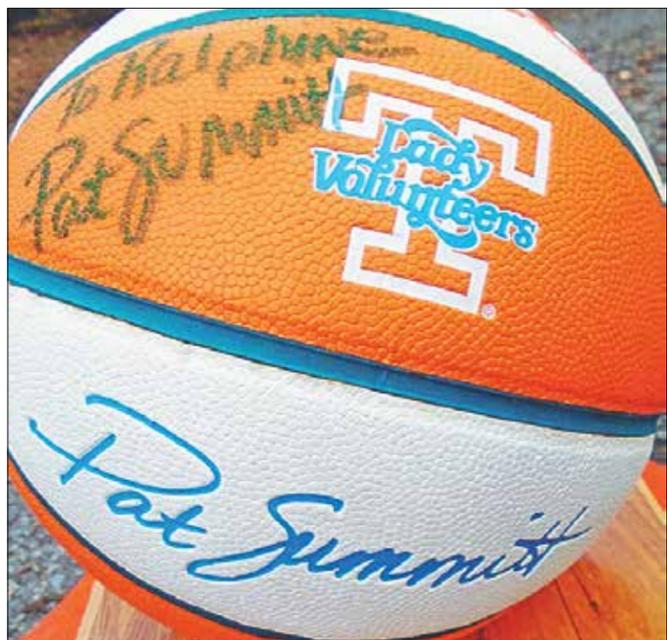
MARK TILLERY ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. BOX 12257
KNOXVILLE, TN. 37912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF PETER GEORGE KLUKIS
DOCKET NUMBER 84066-2

Notice is hereby given that on the 5 day of FEBRUARY 2021, letters testamentary in respect of the Estate of PETER GEORGE KLUKIS who died Nov 13, 2020, were issued the undersigned by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Knox County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against his or her estate are required to file the same with the Clerk and Master of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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



The basketball autographed by Pat Summitt, a treasured gift I received several years ago from a dear friend I met when we were students at The University of Tennessee. Picture by Ralphine Major.

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 Rev. Eddie Sawyer, Pastor
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The Basketball World is Still Backing Pat

By **Ralphine Major**
 ralphine3@yahoo.com

It is always heartening to see. An entire week in women's basketball is designated for teams to wear tee shirts with their team colors. Every shirt bears the same message: "We Back Pat." The carefully chosen words reference the overwhelming support of legendary Lady Vols Coach Pat Summitt who lost her battle with Alzheimer in 2016. Pat Head Summitt spent 38 years coaching the Lady Vols. The native

Tennessean never had to coach during a pandemic. But we can be certain that she would have handled it with the same courage and intensity that we saw her display on the basketball court. I miss seeing her walk the sidelines during games. Whether at The Summitt or at a basketball arena in another state, Pat always showed such poise, grace, and boldness. All of her well-deserved honors are reminders of the impact she had on sports in general: eight national championships; over

1,000 wins; the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and her statue on The University of Tennessee campus. Nearly five years after her death, she is still a role model for today. What a privilege it was to watch a young coach become a legend right before our eyes here in the Volunteer State.

Words of Faith from 2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV): "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The following described vehicles impounded/ repaired/towed will be sold at public and/or private auction in compliance with the Tennessee Public Acts 1967, Chapter 240, house Bill 379. The sale will be held at Volunteer Towing Vehicle Impoundment Lot located at 5906 Walden Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919.

These vehicles have been checked through the files of the Commissioner of Revenue, Title Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, State of Tennessee. In appropriate cases, the vehicles have been checked in other states and the owners and/or lienholders have been notified by certified mail. In those instances where no vehicle identification/serial number or license number was available, this Public Notice in the newspaper will comply with the law.

The failure of the owner/lienholder to exercise their rights to reclaim any vehicle listed below, not bearing a VIN/Serial number, shall be deemed a waiver of all rights and title and authorization to sell said described vehicle(s).

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

5) 00 NISSAN FRONTIER 1N6ED27Y4YC354906
 6) 04 INFINITI M45 JNKAY41E84M401453
 7) 12 CHEVY SONIC 1G1JE5SB9C4179629
 8) 02 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 3C4FY48B22T215840
 9) 92 BUICK 1G4CW5L3N1658911
 10) 10 CHEVY MALIBU 1G1ZC5E3AF264665
 11) 10 FORD FUSION 3FAHP0HAGAR408456
 12) 93 TOYOTA PREVIA JT3AC11R3P1088999
 13) 06 V.W. JETTA 3VWST81K76M698821
 14) 07 INFINITI JNKAY01F87M456510
 15) 06 TOYOTA COROLLA 1NXBR32E36Z588546
 16) 13 CHEVY EQUINOX 1GNALDEK6DZ131987
 17) 12 CHEVY IMPALA 2G1W6SE30C1311287
 18) 12 NISSAN VERSA 3N1CN7AP0CL823718
 19) 11 HONDA CRV 5J6RE4H4XBL089868

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD ON, March 10, 2021 11:00 AM AT YOUR EXTRA STORAGE (starts at Cedar Bluff location): CONTENTS OF THE FOLLOWING UNITS WILL BE SOLD TO SATISFY OWNERS LIEN FOR RENT DUE

254 Harry Lane Blvd. Knoxville TN 37923:
 E11 Lisa Hildago, K62 Sharea Spears, F48 Babacar Toure, C18 Joshua Warwick. 7144 Clinton Hwy, Knoxville TN 37849: B19 Jacqueline Groner, F03 Sarah King, D27 Annalie Rose, D45 Carl Richmond. 4303 E. Emory Rd. Knoxville TN. 37938: E14 Katherine Beeler, D17 Joseph Bennett, F55 Tiffany Creameans.
 CASH ONLY
 865-691-0444

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

The following described vehicles impounded/ repaired/towed will be sold at public and/or private auction in compliance with the Tennessee Public Acts 1967, Chapter 240, House Bill 379. The sale will be held at Jim's Garage & Wrecker Service Vehicle Impoundment Lot located at 5906 Walden Street, Knoxville, TN 37919.

These vehicles have been checked through the files of the Commissioner of Revenue, Title Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, State of Tennessee. In appropriate cases, the vehicles have been checked in other states, and the owners and/or lienholders have been notified by certified mail. In those instances where no vehicle identification/serial number or license number was available, this Public Notice in the newspaper will comply with the law.

The failure of the owner/lienholder to exercise their rights to reclaim any vehicle listed below not bearing a VIN/serial number shall be deemed a waiver of all rights and title and authorization to sell said vehicle.

1) 07 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4AL21E57N420678
 2) 08 HONDA CRV 5J6RE48768L026687
 3) 04 HONDA ELEMENT 5J6YH18574L014462
 4) 10 TOYOTA PRIUS JTDKN3DU5A0077568
 5) 04 DODGE DAKOTA 1D7HG32N145538800
 6) 08 NISSAN SENTRA 3N1AB61E28L7055990
 7) 07 CHRYSLER 300 2C3KA53667H743073
 8) 06 SUZUKI JS2RD62H465351982
 9) 03 CHRYSLER PT 3C4FY48B83T541997
 10) 05 KIA SORRENTO KNDJC733855363196
 11) 99 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4DL01D8XC212959
 12) 98 JEEP G. CHEROKEE 1J4GZ48Y0WC175596
 13) 01 ISUZU 4S2CK58WX14309423
 14) 08 VOLVO XC70 YV4BZ9826810255934
 15) 02 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T1BF32K02U016746

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

16) 07 JEEP 1J8FT47W5D7212309
 17) 98 CHEVY S-10 1G6CS194XW8153675
 18) 07 DODGE VAN 2D4GP44L77R204988
 19) 04 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T1BE2K14U373312
 20) 98 CHEVY S-10 1G6CS1941W8103456
 21) 02 FORD WINDSTAR 2FMZA51482BB7170
 22) 12 HONDA CIVIC 19XFB2F59CE068011
 23) 00 CHEVY SUB. 3GNFK16T5Y6106129
 24) 09 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T1BE46K49U407296
 25) 17 NISSAN ALTIMA 1N4AL3AP1HC153432
 26) 03 TOYOTA MATRIX 2T1KR32E13C063515
 27) 20 MITS MIRAGE ML32F4FJ4JLHF07106
 28) 01 YAMAHA YZF JYA5AHE041A025131
 29) 12 HONDA GOLD WING JH2SC6864CK003973
 30) 05 NISSAN MAXIMA 1N4BA41E75C821049
 31) 07 SATURN 1G8ZS57N7F23742

- 1) 96 NISSAN MAX. JN1CA21D1TT122167
- 2) 08 TOYOTA COROLLA 1NXBR32E18Z966890
- 3) 06 SATURN 168AJ55F86Z204474
- 4) 11 FORD FUSION 3FAHP0G4B1R119642

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