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COVID-19 Weekly Focus

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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	41,604	8.8%	614	.13%

SOURCES 1. U.S. Census Bureau 2. Knox County Health Department data from 4/2/2021.

Judge Susano Portrait Unveiled

By Focus Staff

Former Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Charles D. Susano Jr. was honored at a small ceremony weekend before last where Chief Justice Sharon Lee unveiled a portrait of Susano. At the time of his retirement last April, Judge Susano was the longest serving appellate court judge in the State of Tennessee. Susano had originally been appointed to serve on the Court of Appeals by Governor Ned McWherter and served from March 1994 until April 30, 2020.

Judge Susano lived his entire life in Knoxville and Knox County, attending Catholic High School where he was part of the basketball championship team of 1954. Judge Susano graduated magna cum laude from Notre Dame and he remains a devoted fan of the "Fighting Irish." Susano

served in the Army before coming home to Knoxville and enrolling in the University of Tennessee's Law School. The future judge was part of the inaugural group of law clerks to the Tennessee Supreme Court and Susano worked for Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett.

For thirty years Susano practiced his chosen profession with Bernstein, Susano & Stair and then with Susano, Sheppard, Giordano & Swanson. Susano gave generously of his time to his church and community before Governor McWherter named him to the Tennessee Court of Appeals. Susano was the Presiding Judge of the Court of Appeals from 2012 - 2014 and authored more than 1,000 opinions while sitting on the bench.

Among numerous honors, Judge Susano was

selected as the Appellate Judge of the Year from the American Board of Trial Advocates. Like Charlie Susano, Cameron Brooks served as Chairman of the Knox County Democratic Party and was one of the specially-invited guests to attend the party on the occasion of the judge's retirement. Brooks said he is awed by Susano's example of devotion to others and his church and community. The two shared a special moment at the party and Brooks said, "It was something I will never forget. Judge Susano's warmth as a person was just amazing."

Due to the coronavirus, only a small group of family and elected officials gathered at the Court of Appeals Building to watch the unveiling of Judge Charles D. Susano Jr.'s portrait. Present were



From left to right, Sophie, Charlie III, Judge Charles, Robin and Jake Susano at the portrait ceremony

Commissioner-At-Large Larsen Jay, Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Susano's son and Clerk of the Knox County Circuit Court, Charles, III, and Chief Justice Sharon Lee. City Judge John Rosson

was present, as well as Circuit Court Judge Deborah Stevens, and former Circuit Court Judge and Susano's successor of the Court of Appeals, Kristi Davis. Judge Susano and his

wife of fifty-five years, Carolyn, were surrounded by their children, Stephen, Maria, and Charlie, as well as their grandchildren, Madison, Sydney, Hanna, Sophie, Jake and Hudson.

Knox County Schools celebrates two groundbreakings



Children from Lonsdale Elementary and Sam E. Hill Primary took part in the groundbreaking for a new Lonsdale Elementary Monday. They were joined by Knox County and Knoxville City officials, the principals of both schools, school board members, and a large crowd of parents and well-wishers. A groundbreaking for the replacement school at Adrian Burnett Elementary was held the same day. The schools are expected to open in time for the 2022-23 school year. A groundbreaking ceremony for a new elementary school in Northwest Knox County will be held later this spring.

Pension board ups funds to fight Etters lawsuit

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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When the Knox County Retirement and Pension Board met last week and Director Jennifer Schroeder was presenting the budget proposal for the coming fiscal year one item drew some immediate attention. The amount for outside attorney fees jumped to \$102,000 from the previous \$52K.

Knox County Commission Chairman Larsen Jay asked why the increase and Schroeder said, "We still have to budget for the pending lawsuit."

Attorney John Owings said the Etters vs. Knox County lawsuit's next hearing in Chancery Court is in late May and added there "may be several hearings in our future."

"We feel like we have an outstanding case but there are efforts at work to upset our policy," Owings said, adding that the increased cost of outside counsel "is an estimate." Because of illness and COVID-19 court closings the case has lingered for more than a year.

Chris Etters and eleven

other citizens filed a class action suit against Knox County in September, 2019, charging the Knox County Mayor and Commission with illegally dismissing a case filed by the former law director against the pension board's Uniformed Officers Pension Plan actions. The board has been adding vacation days of sheriff employees to their monthly retirement payments. The mayor and commission voted to remove the law director from the matter and dismissed his suit against the pension board.

Actuary Bob Cross of USI Consulting Group advised the pension board that the UUOP retirement program will face "real stress" over the next 7 to 8 years. He said the county may have to increase its support of the plan.

"Rather than seeing a dramatic increase in the county contribution, spread it out over gains and losses," he said. Cross said he is suggesting the pension

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Zonings, signs and sheep grazing on city agenda

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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When the Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday it will look at several zoning changes and even an ordinance to allow grazing by sheep.

Rezoning requests will be considered for properties at 4821 North Broadway, 202 Cedar Lane and 2910 and 2912 Greenway Drive.

An appeal by JT Development Group LLC will be heard regarding a Board of Zoning Appeals denial of a variance to allow a monument at the entrance at 504 Brunella Way for "Lusso Villas."

More than 300 Norwood opposition to a zoning change comes with a request from Hilton Capital Group, represented by Benjamin C. Mullins. The request is to change a piece of property stretching along 2400 and 2600 Merchant Drive and 5291 Oak Hill Drive from Low Density Residential to Medium Density and Office, both with Hillside Protection. Part of the property is also zoned as Neighborhood Commercial and Agricultural and would become General Residential and General Residential Neighborhood. Retail business would front Merchant Drive with apartments behind.

neighborhood residents have signed a petition against the proposed development pointing to the increase in traffic on the busy connector route, the loss of trees on the hillside, and the safety of children walking to the two local schools.

The council will also look at upgrading its standards for signs and internally illuminated signs in Industrial Districts.

The Knoxville Police Department is asking the council to allow prescribed grazing by sheep similar to

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Immigration Crisis

From a distance



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

Americans are the kindest, most generous people in the world. No other nation even comes close to the U.S. in doing things for other countries.

But it is ridiculous for the federal government to spend \$86.9 million to

house illegal immigrants in name-brand hotels and motels.

Can you imagine the shock on both ends when an illegal immigrant calls home and says "Mama, guess what, they have put me up at the Embassy Suites Hotel, and it's free.

And it was completely false when Democrats were saying the Trump administration was putting kids into cages. This was a lie spouted out for purely partisan political purposes.

In my newsletter of June 2018, I published a report from The Washington Times, that the federal government spent \$1.4

billion in 2017 to take care of nearly 41,000 unaccompanied immigrant children.

They stayed on average of seven weeks which came out to about \$670 a day for each child.

One contractor bragged about providing "new sets of clothes for each migrant, gym equipment, and regular field trips to get away from the dorm - activities including movie nights, swimming, and bowling, and even something called multicultural crayons."

Another contractor described providing special foods, celebration of cultural holidays, cable television, basketball, Spanish

language, yoga, soccer tournaments, three meals a day, plus two snacks, and calls back home a couple times a week.

Most of these kids never had it so good. Now, because of President Biden's welcome, one facility was housing 4,200 in a place designed for about one-tenth that many.

When I first went to Congress 32 years ago, some articles said we had about 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. When I left Congress a little over two years ago, most stories still reported 11 million here illegally.

But the Center for

Immigration Studies says we have 60 to 70 million immigrants, legal and illegal, here already.

But because CIS is an anti-immigration think tank and not politically correct, its studies do not get much play in our left-wing national media.

For many years, we have allowed about 13 million to immigrate here legally each year. Most of these have become U.S. citizens. The U.S. allows far more immigration than any other country.

In my "Christmas Memories" Focus column last Dec. 21, I wrote about how blessed we are to live in

the United States. I pointed out that half the people in the world have to get by on \$4.00 or less a day, and about 80% on \$10.00 or less a day.

It would not be surprising if half of the world's 7.5 billion people want to come here.

But our entire infrastructure - our schools, jails, roads, sewers, hospitals, etc. - simply cannot handle a rapid influx of several hundred million. It would destroy this country as it is today.

Donald Trump had immigration under control. Joe Biden, thus far, does not.



Having fun watching the Lady VOLS, by Ralphine Major

The Madness of March!

It's back! For the first time in two years, fans are able to see basketball teams compete in the NCAA Tournaments. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, tournaments were canceled in 2020. Tennessee is my team! Unfortunately, the VOLS and Lady VOLS are out of the tournaments. I may not remember the teams who win the championships this year. But I will probably remember that a star player on Tennessee's roster was knocked out of

Continued on page 4

By Ralphine Major
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Inskip residents want a traffic study before development

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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A multi-unit apartment development proposed for Inskip Road is opposed by local homeowners and is expected to be on the city agenda later in April for rezoning. Aside from the tall units overlooking the backyards of neighboring residences, opponents are concerned about the added traffic.

Harold Cannon, director of Knoxville's department of engineering, has notified residents and the Inskip Community Association that he plans to look into traffic along the busy connector road especially since it is so near Inskip Elementary School.

"I am forwarding your email to Zachery Roberts and Eden Slater, both who serve on the city's Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program, to look into this immediately," Cannon told Inskip Community Association President Betty Mahan in a letter.

"My reasoning is that your concerns appear to be related to the school zone which warrants a prompt level of attention and we need to gather this data while the school is in session," he wrote, adding, "The level of study takes some time and we ask your patience while that is being done."

"With respect to the sidewalk,

Mr. Roberts will discuss this with our Traffic Staff as well," he noted.

The developers are asking the city for financial support through the Affordable Rental Development Fund. Local residents say the long narrow property isn't suitable for the five, 66-unit buildings being proposed, along with an access road and parking.

The community is also pushing for sidewalks to connect Inskip Road to High School Road to join the sidewalk going to the elementary school. Among the concerns submitted by the neighborhood about the project is the number of traffic accidents along East Inskip Drive.

Over the past year there have been at least 30 accidents along the route.

"As development continues in the Inskip area traffic also increases and accidents are imminent. Speeding cars are also of concern especially since Inskip Elementary School is accessed off East Inskip," said Mahan.

"There is not even a crosswalk at the intersection of East Inskip and High School Road where the school is only a block away from East Inskip. The road is also not wide enough for children and community to walk without being in a ditch," she said.

Pension board ups funds to fight Ethers lawsuit

Cont. from page 1

board adopt a plan similar to the board of education and watch gains and losses over the lifetime of the plan.

Cross said spreading out losses over the years would "dramatically improve the plan so there's not a dramatic fluctuation in the county's budget from a pension contribution requirement."

He estimated the county's part of supporting the UUOP program could go up to \$6 million and that

increase "would be stressful."

The lawsuit charges the inclusion of vacation pay in retirement might increase an additional \$4.2 million per year by increasing retirement from 75% of the retiree's former highest salary to as much as 98%.

The proposed budget for the county retirement operation being proposed is \$2,090,954, up \$187,924. The full time staff's portion of the budget is \$445,000.

Zonings, signs and sheep grazing on city agenda

Continued from page 1

the existing ordinance allowing goat grazing.

In other action the city council is being asked to approve an agreement with Cities United to provide coaching and capacity building services dealing with violence reduction for \$75,000. The council will also discuss the state installing an additional southbound right turn lane on Lovell Road at Parkside Drive.

Council may request a \$5.4 million grant from the state to purchase electric buses with a city match of \$1.2 million. Other state funding requests include overtime, programs and supplies funding for law enforcement and funding for a bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign.



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Publisher's Positions



By Steve Hunley, Publisher
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the appearance of elitism, which has been repeatedly enforced by leftists across the country in hypocritical "do as I say, not as I do" type of leadership. The optics were bad. When an employee at the health department mistakenly threw away almost 1,000 doses of the vaccine, it was even worse. Suddenly, neither Martha Buchanan nor the county health department maintained that glow of infallibility bestowed upon it by the left.

The debate about masking has reached the point of the hysteria with many people, pro and con. The left particularly politicized masking quite sometime ago. The same people who chant "follow the science" will also usually be the first to remind us there are any number of genders. Nor has any public official exactly earned himself or herself kudos on the topic. Mayor Indya Kincannon sat by twiddling her thumbs as the Knoxville News-Sentinel photographed literally hundreds of UT students mixing, mingling and having a merry old time at various hot spots. Not a single member of the city council protested it and there are none of the incumbents who are going to be able to say with a straight face an anti-masker opponent is a Q-Anon supporter or a crazy. What's the difference between doing literally nothing and being against masks? It comes out pretty much the same. Not surprisingly, one of the

big COVID hot spots inside the city was surrounding the university.

The hysteria about masking - - - and I still wear a mask wherever I go - - - oftentimes relentlessly pursued by the left, was stoked by a comment which Commissioner Kyle Ward forwarded to the Knox County Sheriff's Office as a potential threat. The comment was posted by a subscriber on the Knox Compass's private Facebook account; it read, in part, "all forms of protest against the commission now become justified . . . Once politicians vote to arbitrarily kill citizens, they must be stopped by whatever means necessary." One can easily see why Commissioner Ward reported the comment to the sheriff's department and the rhetoric was certainly more inflammatory than that which Democrats cited in their last attempt to impeach Donald Trump yet again after he had already left office. It's more than a little disingenuous not to realize the language was highly inflammatory and inappropriately suggestive. The poster of the comment quickly said there was "no threat made or intended." Nor was the commission voting to kill anyone.

Leftists are perfectly capable of using incendiary rhetoric and do.

I would also point out most of these leftists who lose their minds over the sanctity of masks, those who are quick to start squalling about the

loss of life are strangely silent about the danger of defunding the police, which costs lives.

Dr. Patrick O'Brien, a member of the county's Board of Health, notified the commission, he would not serve on an advisory committee, which changed not a single mind. In fact, O'Brien, in all truth, likely added to Dr. Buchanan's woes when he suggested Knox County extend its own enforcement powers beyond the county's borders, which it clearly could not do under the law.

State law is changing in any event through a bill sponsored by state Representative Jason Zachary. In the end, the debate is much ado about nothing as state law will prevail.

Judge Charles Susano Jr.

Weekend before last, there was a small ceremony unveiling a portrait of Charles D. Susano Jr. Susano served as a judge of the Tennessee Court of Appeals from March of 1994 until his retirement April 30, 2020. By the time of his retirement, Judge Susano was the longest serving appellate judge in the State of Tennessee. Please see the story and photo on Page 1.

Anyone who knows Judge Susano realizes he is a very gracious man and his retirement statement embodied that courtly nature. "It has been the highest honor of my life to have served the

people of the state of Tennessee and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity."

For all of my business life, my lawyer was Bernie Bernstein. For a great many years, Bernie's partner was Charles Susano. Judge Susano overcame terrible adversity in his life, being paralyzed after falling from a second story window while sleep walking. It was a crisis for his family, but Judge Susano proved to be not only an optimist, but resilient. Judge Susano was also a man of great faith. In fact, Judge Susano would frequently travel about our community and park near nursing homes or hospitals and fervently recite the Prayer of Divine Mercy for the sick and dying. For countless years, Judge Susano also remembered the less fortunate, spending his own money to take dozens of pizzas over to the Richard Bean Juvenile Detention Facility, a tradition still carried on by his son. Throughout the years, Judge Susano performed innumerable kindnesses for others.

One of the last events before our country was consumed by the coronavirus was the retirement celebration thrown for Judge Susano by Chief Justice Sharon Lee and others. The room was packed with the high and the mighty, as well as the modest and the meek. Judge Susano never forgot his humble beginnings, earning his license to practice law in

1964. Susano eventually formed another law partnership and was active in Democratic politics. Susano was the chairman of the Knox County Democratic Party for a time and was named to a vacancy on the Tennessee Court of Appeals by then-Governor Ned McWherter. Under Tennessee's system of retaining judges, Charles Susano was repeatedly retained, for his integrity, character and ability was recognized by Republicans as well as Democrats.

Now having celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday with his family, Judge Susano has had the pleasure of seeing all of his children do well. Susano's youngest son and namesake is the Knox County Circuit Court Clerk. Judge Susano was surrounded by family as Chief Justice Sharon Lee unveiled his portrait, which will hang in the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

It is a fitting tribute for a man who worked hard his entire life, believed in and lived the American Dream and always treated the other fellow with courtesy and respect.

I reckon I understand why we eulogize those we've lost who have meant so much to our community, but it seems to me it's much better to give a fellow a pat on the back while he is still here to enjoy it. Judge Charles Susano deserves every accolade he can be given and more besides. Congratulations, Judge!

How Many Judges are in Knox County?



By Jedidiah McKeenan
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list of judges regularly holding court in Knox County. Sincere apologies to any judges I have missed or misstated their home base of operations.

Criminal Appeals Judges - Three

Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeal Board Judge - One

Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims Judges - Two

Knox County Chancellors - Three

Knox County Circuit Court Judges - Four

Knox County Circuit and Chancery Child Support Magistrate - One

Knox County Criminal Court Judges - Three

Knox County General Sessions Judges - Five

Knox County Criminal Magistrates - Five

Knox County Juvenile

Court Judge - One

Knox County Juvenile Court Magistrates - Five

Knox County Juvenile Court Child Support Magistrates - Three

City of Knoxville Municipal Judge - One

Town of Farragut Municipal Judge - One

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



PHOTO BY RONNIE COLLINS.

Bill Robinson, the longest-held enlisted prisoner of the Vietnam War, spoke to a large crowd assembled at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on Governor John Sevier Highway last week. Veterans and citizens honored Vietnam Veterans Day in our area and across the nation.

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Board of Health stripped of its powers

By Mike Steely
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Although Knox County Health Department Director Dr. Martha Buchanan repeatedly asked that the Board of Health remain and have powers to deal with the pandemic, the Knox County Commission voted 8-3 last week to cut its powers to an "advisory" capacity. The ordinance was sponsored by Commissioner Kyle Ward and seconded by Commissioner Richie Beeler on its second and final reading last Monday. Chairman Larsen Jay was the only member to speak on the matter, pleading that the board retain its powers. Jay said he disagreed with the law department on the powers of the board and said that pending state legislation to limit the board's powers "is in trouble" and asked the commission to wait until that bill is resolved.

"Six hundred families lost members to Covid," Jay said of Knox County. He reasoned that if the powers are dissolved it might be followed by pressure on Dr. Buchanan to be demoted, a superior be named and Buchanan forced to resign.

"What's next?" he asked should another epidemic take place.

"The forest fire is not out yet," he said, adding that as a former Boy Scout he was told never

to leave a fire burning.

The three votes came from Commissioners Jay, Dasha Lundy and Courtney Durrett.

Seventeen people spoke in Public Forum against the Board of Health and the maskless crowd in the balcony applauded the vote to remove the powers of the Board of Health.

The motion actually redefines the Board of Health as an "Advisory County Board of Health and sets forth membership including the Knox County Mayor, the director of schools, two physicians, one dentist, one pharmacist, one registered nurse, one citizen representative, the health director and county health officer, and a commissioner.

"Members of the Board of Health serving as of the effective date of the ordinance shall continue to serve until their terms expire," the ordinance reads.

Dr. Patrick O'Brien, the Board of Health member who steered the group to ease restrictions on bars and restaurants and other businesses, had written the commission chairman that if the ordinance passes, "I will not accept a position as a member of the Advisory Board."

"I do not feel I can adequately serve this in this newly established advisory role," O'Brien wrote, adding, "It was an honor to serve on the

Board of Health with my fellow board members."

The health department notified The Focus Tuesday morning they are seeking an opinion from the law director, David Buuck, as to the powers of the Board of Health during the 15 days before the new ordinance takes effect. Buuck told The Focus the BOH regulations will continue until the ordinance becomes law.

Dr. Buchanan, who is appointed by the state health commissioner, holds two positions at the health department: health director and health officer. The health officer must be a physician but works under the direction of the health director. The Focus asked Buuck if a director could be named to oversee Buchanan and he said the state, with the approval of the county mayor, could name someone to that supervisory position.

The Board of Health has a scheduled meeting planned for April 21. There is some speculation that Governor Bill Lee will allow all state restrictions under his emergency order to expire on April 28. After that only the governor or the Knox County Mayor can declare an emergency should COVID-19 again surge.

Baseball Time

I'm back in the baseball watching business again.



By Joe Rector
joerector@comcast.net

Yes, just a few weeks ago I said that I was stepping away from sports for a while. However, that was before UT's team began its season and put on several exciting exhibitions of grit, determination, and talent. Things also have changed since my brother's grandson Caden Rector began his senior season at Bearden.

I have to admit that something inside of me changes when baseball starts each year. Maybe the return of warm weather makes being outside at the ballpark exciting. I do know that the abilities of individual players to throw a baseball at 90-plus miles per hour seem almost superhuman. Even more unbelievable is that players use a slender piece of wood, see with Superman eyes, and smack that streaking object 400-plus feet. Defensive players can move with grace and agility to stop ground balls or snatch them from the air.

For the past couple of years, it's been fun to

watch Tennessee play ball. As much as anything, each year's team makes significant improvements, and that gives hope to Vol fans that before long they will be able to book tickets to the SEC tournament and possibly see the orange and white in regional games.

I love to watch Caden play ball. For one thing, he reminds me of his dad when he was playing. Both love the game and have inherited skills from their mother's/grandmother's side of the family to be good ball players. I remember Caden being unsteady on his feet as a toddler, but he swung a plastic bat at balls his dad or Papaw threw. He fell into deep concentration as he swung, but a smile streamed across his face when he made contact with that ball.

I plan to watch more games this year during Caden's senior season simply because he will be the last male in our family who is playing ball. He's not my immediate family, but just the same, any ball game is better when there is a connection with one of the players. My hope is that Caden has a fantastic year, one that he can remember for the rest of his life. That would be a good way to end his high school years.

With just a little luck, Knoxville will have a baseball team of its own again.

Having a team play downtown in a new stadium is an exciting prospect. Other businesses associated with the area will serve as magnets to pull fans and tourists to the city. The best thing, however, will be sitting in the stadium on a warm summer evening and watching a baseball game while enjoying a hotdog and drink. There is no better way to spend time.

Baseball used to be America's game. Other sports have become more popular. I contend that no other sport is as relaxing, entertaining, or skillful as baseball. Younger folks don't much care for the game because it takes too long. That's because those folks don't understand the nuisances of baseball.

I hope I am still here on this earth when the new baseball stadium opens. If they are affordable, I'll buy a couple of season tickets. I also hope Caden continues his baseball career after high school at some college. I'll take a few road trips to watch him play. I might even attend a few UT games if I can find a place to park.

The weather is warming up, DST has arrived, and it's baseball time. If you have a chance, go watch a game and remember how much fun it is.

The Madness of March!

Cont. from page 2 — playing in the tournament. He was the victim of a flagrant foul resulting in injury.

Would it have made a difference for Tennessee if he could have played? Maybe. Maybe not. It is sad that he was denied that opportunity for this year's tournament. Both the Tennessee men's and women's teams had the talent to beat the best on any given night. But both teams faltered during tournament time.

Watching Kellie Harper on the sideline brings to mind the one who coached her. Harper has her own

intense look. The task ahead of her is daunting--restoring the program to its glory days that was so much fun to watch under legendary coach and master motivator Pat Summitt. I hope she comes into her own and is able to guide the Lady VOLS to national prominence once again.

Words of Faith: "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:2 (KJV)

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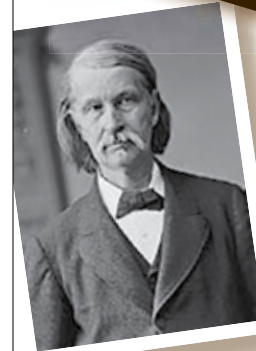
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Over two centuries many notable people have been born or lived in our county, from music and movie stars to business and political leaders. The Knoxville Focus highlights some of the outstanding individuals who have left their stamp on our history.

NOTABLES
FROM
KNOXVILLE



HORACE
MAYNARD

Horace Maynard was Civil War pro-Unionist, educator, attorney, politician and diplomat. An ardent abolitionist he was one of few Southern Congressmen to keep his seat during the war. He later served as Tennessee's Attorney General, ambassador to Turkey and Post Master General. During the Civil War, Maynard urged Lincoln to send troops to East Tennessee.

As an attorney he defended Union County against a lawsuit brought by the Citizens of Knox County to protest that county being formed from parts of Knox. Maynardville was named for his effort and became the County Seat.

Horace Maynard Middle School in Union County is named in his honor. Maynard died in Knoxville in 1882 and is buried in the Old Gray Cemetery.

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Carroll Reece

Tennessee's 'Mr. Republican' Pt 6

Pages from the Past



By Ray Hill
rayhill865@gmail.com

Carroll Reece had first been elected to Congress to represent Tennessee's First District in 1920 when he had defeated incumbent congressman Sam R. Sells in the Republican primary. 1920 had been a banner year for Republicans in Tennessee with the GOP winning the governorship, electing a member of the state Railroad and Utilities Commission, and five members of Congress. The pendulum swung back to the Democrats in 1922 when Austin Peay had defeated Governor Alf Taylor, and the Republicans lost three congressional seats to the Democrats. Carroll Reece had swept aside his opposition in both the primary and general elections to win reelection easily. In 1923, the thirty-three year-old congressman had married twenty-five year-old Louise Despard Goff in what several newspapers of the time referred to as a "brilliant" social occasion in the Nation's Capitol.

Frank P. Robinson, a resident of Sevier County, had run a lackluster last place finish in the Republican primary in 1922 and undeterred, promptly announced he was running again in 1924. Reece faced another opponent, W. I. Jones, who seemed to represent a more serious challenge. Jones was born in Claiborne County in very modest circumstances. At various times, "Billy" Jones had worked very demanding physical jobs as both a boy and young man to provide for himself, as well as to pay for his education. Graduating from Lincoln Memorial University, Jones had been "an editor, soldier, traveler and teacher."

The congressman opened a political headquarters in the Unaka and City National Bank Building in Johnson City. Reece gave an interview to a reporter from the Johnson City Chronicle and lamented he had hoped he wouldn't face opposition for renomination in the Republican primary after unanimously winning the endorsement of the GOP congressional convention. Reece told the reporter, "Anyway, it has not been my fortune to get many of the good things in life without a fight." The congressman said the initial reports from the various counties comprising the First Congressional District indicated he was in good shape to win the Republican primary.

According to the Nashville Tennessean, Congressman Reece was renominated in the Republican primary by a majority of approximately 4,500 votes. Democrat R. M. Barry, Chairman of the Unicoi County Commission and a bank president, challenged the congressman in the general election. Barry scored Reece for having

supposedly nominated a young man who was not a resident of the State of Tennessee to one of the military academies, but the congressman won the general election easily. As John W. Davis, the Democratic presidential nominee carried the Volunteer State over Republican Calvin Coolidge, Carroll Reece was winning the First Congressional District with almost 63% of the vote against R. M. Barry and two Independent candidates.

Congressman Reece continued to accrue seniority, a valuable commodity in Congress, and served on the House Military Affairs Committee. Reece campaigned for a fourth term in the House of Representatives in 1926 and yet again faced opposition inside the Republican primary. Reece faced Oscar Byrd Lovette, the District Attorney General of an area of counties surrounding Greene County, and Joel N. Pierce. Joel Pierce was the superintendent of the Greene County school system.

Reece shrewdly used his incumbency to his advantage as the primary election approached. A copy of a letter sent by Reece to the veterans living inside the First Congressional District addressed to "Dear Buddy" and signed by "Your Comrade" was published as a political advertisement in newspapers throughout the area. Reece announced the House had passed a bill benefitting veterans by "reinstating government insurance to 1927." For those interested, Reece promised to send along a copy of the bill if they wished. The congressman also said, "I have assisted in getting the House of Representatives this bill as well as other laws for the relief of the ex-service men." Reece wrote his political opponents were making "many false statements about what I have done for the ex-service men" which was an attempt to "prejudice my comrades in arms against me and advance the political interests of a non-service man." Reece reminded veterans few others in Congress had done as much for them and the "widows, orphans and dependent mothers and fathers" as he had in such a relatively short period of time. "Just as I stood shoulder to shoulder with my comrades on the firing line in France so have I stood for your interests in Congress and no man can truthfully deny it," Reece wrote.

Congressman Reece noted Joel N. Pierce had not fought in the World War, nor any other war. The bookish school superintendent had tried to "deride me for receiving decorations for deeds performed in line of duty on the field



A young Louise Despard Goff, future wife of Carroll Reece of Tennessee, circa 1915 - 1920.

of battle where so many of my comrades were left sleeping never to awake," Reece's letter said. Reece related Pierce had boasted he had been exempted from service during the war and not for any physical disability. "You could have probably been 'exempted' from the draft if you had tried," Reece wrote veterans, "but that is not the kind of red American blood that flows in your veins." It was an effective letter.

After the polls closed on Election Night and the vote returns began to trickle in, it was readily apparent Carroll Reece had once again won the GOP primary. According to the Johnson City Staff-News, even the most optimistic of Reece's supporters seemed surprised by the congressman's margin of victory. Pierce had carried his native county of Greene, but O. B. Lovette was also from Greene County. Pierce had only won by around 500 votes out of 3,500 cast. Pierce also carried Unicoi county while the remaining ten counties comprising Tennessee's First Congressional District were carried by Congressman Carroll Reece.

Reece won his greatest general election victory that year, winning more than 88% of the vote against Democratic nominee W. I. Giles.

May 18, 1928 brought the announcement of the birth of Carroll and Louise Reece's only child, daughter Louise Goff. Young Louise had been born in Washington's Garfield Hospital. "Handsome announcements" were received by the Watauga Chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812 and the Julius Dugger Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution announcing the birth of Miss Louise Reece; Mrs. Reece was a member of both historical organizations. The daughter of a congressman and granddaughter of U. S. Senator Guy D. Goff of West Virginia, baby Louise and mother received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from President Calvin Coolidge and First Lady Grace Coolidge. Mother and daughter returned to the Reece apartment from the hospital on May 30.

That year Reece's father-in-law, Senator Goff, won

the West Virginia GOP primary for the Republican presidential nomination as the favorite son of his home state. Congressman Reece was enthusiastically supporting Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover for the GOP nomination. Congressman Carroll Reece, after having served eight years in Congress, seemed to be well entrenched inside his own district. For the first time, Reece was unopposed in the Republican primary in 1928.

The nomination of Herbert Hoover delighted Congressman Reece and the Tennessean was supposedly one of "the first in the South to espouse the" Hoover candidacy. J. Will Taylor, congressman from Tennessee's Second District and the Republican National Committeeman from the Volunteer State, conferred with Secretary Hoover in Washington. Taylor told the GOP nominee he had a better than even chance of carrying Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida and Alabama. Hoover asked Carroll Reece to meet with him where he thanked the congressman warmly for the support he had received from the First District.

With Republican prospects bright for the fall, Tennessee Republicans promptly began bickering amongst themselves. Raleigh Hopkins, the GOP nominee for governor of Tennessee, was arguing a contest before the Republican State Executive Committee when he and John Jackson, the former postmaster of Columbia, Tennessee, got into a brawl, resulting in the candidate being stabbed. Not seriously injured, Hopkins recuperated at home while Jackson was free on \$250 bond for assault with a knife. Knoxville's Hal Clements, a colorful figure whom I knew at the end of his life, railed against the "bossism" imposed upon Tennessee's Republican Party by Congressman J. Will Taylor. Clements cried that "common folks" should be admitted into the party's councils, not merely the federal appointees who had benefited from the patronage of "Hillbilly Bill" Taylor.

Lem Reece, best man at his brother's wedding in 1923, was himself an

ardent Republican and had been named as the manager of the Republican ticket's campaign inside Carroll Reece's First Congressional District. It was a coup for both Reece brothers when presidential candidate Herbert Hoover announced he would make a speech in Elizabethton, Tennessee in Congressman Reece's district. According to columnist Kirke L. Simpson, Washington's press corps had been astounded by Hoover's abrupt announcement that he would campaign in Tennessee. Most of the newspapermen had never even heard of the city of some 5,000 inhabitants.

New York governor Alfred E. Smith, the Democratic nominee for president, announced he, too, would campaign in Tennessee, visiting Nashville.

When Herbert Hoover's train pulled into Elizabethton following a stop in Bristol, estimates of the crowd ran from 35,000 to as many as 70,000 people awaiting the candidate. Still, most observers believed the GOP state ticket was weak. The Knoxville News-Sentinel thought Raleigh Hopkins had no hope whatever of defeating Governor Henry Horton and acknowledged James A. Fowler, the Republican nominee for the United States Senate was "an able man," but stood little chance against Senator K. D. McKellar. The News-Sentinel quoted leading political observers as thinking McKellar's popularity in the Senate race, along with the weakness of Raleigh Hopkins in the gubernatorial contest made it highly likely Al Smith would carry Tennessee in the presidential contest.

Once again, Tennessee Republicans enjoyed statewide success with the presidential candidacy of presidential nominee Herbert Hoover. It was less an endorsement of Hoover than it was a rejection of Democratic nominee Alfred E. Smith, the governor of New York. Smith was Catholic and a "wet", meaning he was against the national prohibition law in effect at the time. The Republican candidates for governor and the United States Senate lost to the incumbents, Henry Horton and Kenneth D. McKellar, respectively. Reece's

opponent in the 1928 general election was William Isaac Giles, who ran as an enthusiastically wringing wet candidate, intent upon the repeal of prohibition. Giles went well beyond repeal, stating he was for the government manufacturing alcoholic beverages through government-run liquor stores. A farmer, Giles was well known in his native Washington County and was a familiar sight to citizens who bought his peaches and apples. Giles was something of an eccentric and was a perennial candidate for public office whose left hand was paralyzed. "The remedy for this abominable liquor curse that has caused the broken unity of both church and nation cannot be remedied until the government manufactures and sells liquor at actual cost, in a limited amount," Giles insisted.

For his second time in two years, Carroll Reece beat William Isaac Giles for Congress. Reece won almost 79% of the ballots cast and won almost 93% of the vote in his home county of Johnson. Reece had good reason to celebrate; there would be yet another Republican administration in Washington and he continued to gain seniority and influence in the nation's Capitol. Yet the presidency of Herbert Hoover would cost Carroll Reece dearly in political terms in two years' time. Congressman Reece would face the most serious contest to hold his seat in Congress since he had challenged an incumbent in 1920 inside the Republican primary. Carroll Reece would also face the first true challenge to his political supremacy in Tennessee's First Congressional District in the 1930 general election.

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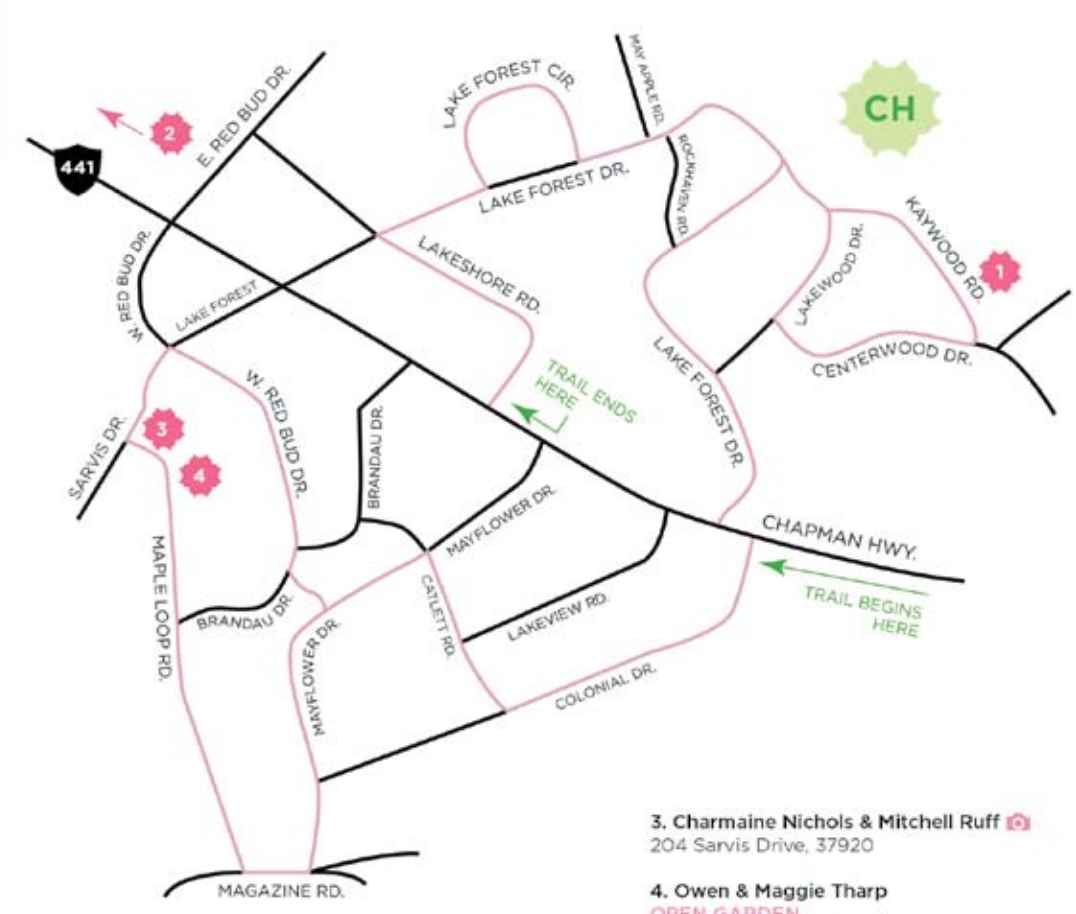
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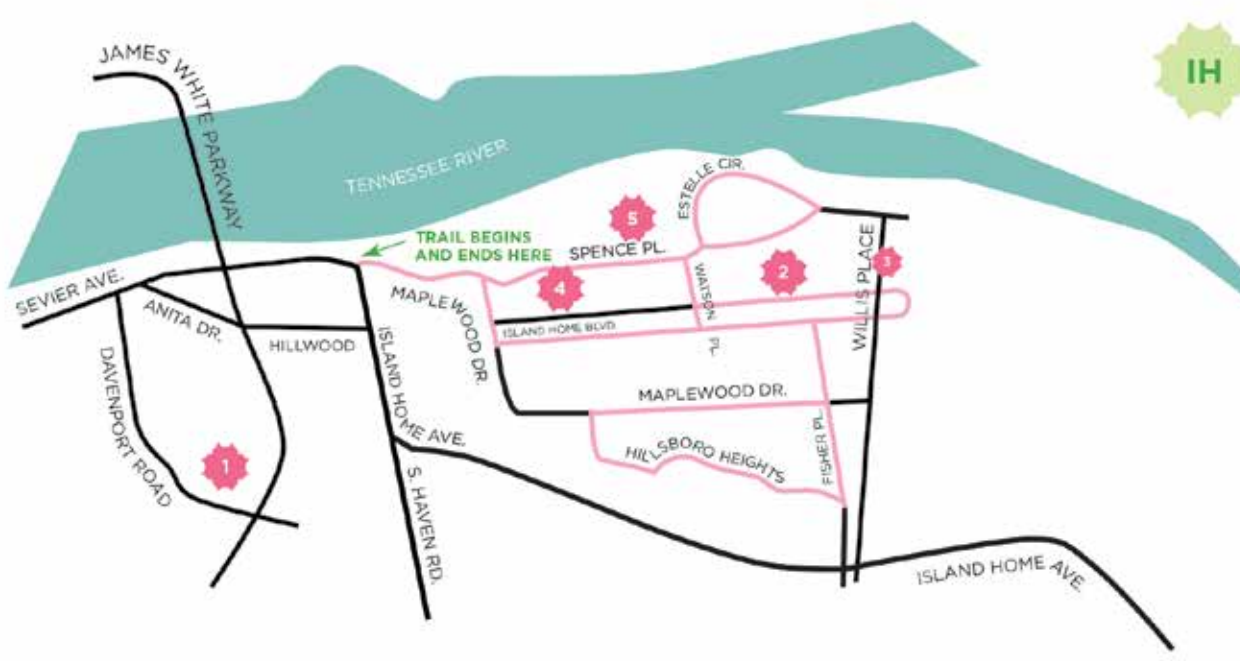
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From Angels to Lady Devils, Alicia's story has hope

By Steve Williams

Life threw Alicia Reeves a changeup in the fall of 2018, around the time she was beginning her freshman year at Halls High School.

A medical condition her parents Tim and Michele first thought was a form of asthma eventually required spinal surgery in November of 2019.

After several months of seeing various doctors and trying numerous therapeutics, an MRI had shown a benign cyst inside her spinal column that was pressing on some nerves and was believed to be causing her "spasms and fits of coughing."

The surgery was successful, but Reeves is still undergoing physical therapy.

As a result, Alicia hasn't been able to resume playing softball, the sport she loves and started playing for the Angels when she was four years old and continued to play through middle school.

Reeves is now a junior and in her third season on the Halls High team.

She was in uniform and assisted this reporter after the Lady Devils' win against Central March 22, providing her teammates' individual statistics from the game and even taking time to spell their names as a roster was unavailable.

The reporter was impressed by her kindness and willingness to assist before learning about her health situation.

"I have a bit of a spinal injury," she said. "I'm working hard to get (over it with physical therapy treatments).

"I'm hoping to be able to play in my senior year," she added confidently.

Reeves' positive attitude coincided with her beaming personality.

And while she has not been able to play in the games, she has found other ways to contribute and be a part of the team.

"I'd say I'm a cheerleader slash manager," said Alicia. "I cheer at the games. I keep the stats. I help clean



Halls High's Alicia Reeves is nicknamed "AK-47" not for her uniform number, but for her passion for softball.

up the fieldhouse and organize things for our games."

All that is true, but Coach Kevin Julian added much more that the modest Alicia left out.

"Her nickname is AK-47 because she just brings that passion to our team every day," started Julian.

"She works hard. She does everything. She's our best cheerleader. She does all of our stat information during the game.

"And there's nobody who wishes they were playing more than her."

Reeves had a good background in softball before getting to Halls High. The Angels had become a travel team and Reeves made trips with them to play in tournaments across Tennessee and to Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

In addition to those summers, Reeves also played three years for the middle school team and had become a valuable utility player, playing first base and pitching and also

playing some in the outfield.

She was well prepared for her high school softball career.

"We were told that it could be up to two years before we know if the nerves will heal completely," said her father recently. "Since (her surgery) she has been in physical therapy to try and regain range of motion in her throwing arm - apparently the nerve that was impinged impacts that arm - along with working on running again."

Two years will have passed by next Nov. 19. If all goes well, Alicia could be on the field her senior season.

In the meantime, Reeves continues to shine as a teammate and in her off-the-field duties.

"She comes every day, knowing she's not going to get to play," said Coach Julian. "She goes and gets the foul balls and does all the grunt work that nobody wants to do and she relishes, because she wants to

be part of it.

"We wouldn't be decent at all if it wasn't for her, because she's our heart and soul for sure."

Julian pointed out other talents Alicia possesses, too.

"She's a fantastic singer and involved in our madrigal and chorus programs at school," he said. "So even though she's (involved in softball), she had one of the lead roles in a recent three-day weekend production."

The musical was *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and Alicia played Florika, the mother of Quasimodo, one of the parts with a speaking role and solo.

"Her other love besides softball is singing," her dad later noted. "She auditioned for and made both the All-East and All-State choirs this year as well."

Alicia may be singing this time next year too as she takes the field with her Lady Devil teammates. That's their hope.

Bearden wins 'ugly game' in holiday baseball tournament

By Ken Lay

Bearden High School baseball coach John Rice is never one to apologize for one of his team's victories.

And he isn't ever going to throw a win back. He could, however, sympathize with fans watching his team's 9-7 comeback victory over Ohio's Rossford High School Friday in the DeMarini Classic at Phil Garner Ballpark.

"I'm happy with the way we fought and with the way we came back to win an ugly game," Rice said. "I'll be honest with you; this one was tough to watch.

"You had guys (on both teams) who didn't want to swing the bat and they left it in the umpire's hands, and that's not what you want to see in a high school baseball game. You want to see guys hitting the ball and playing defense."

The game, which was a battle of Bulldogs, saw Rossford and Bearden pitchers combine to walk 15 batters and hit six more.

Knoxville's Bulldogs (3-3), however, managed to flex enough muscle at the plate to come up with a pair of big extra-base

Cont. on page 3

State bowling champion is going to Tennessee Wesleyan



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Sharing the moment of Devean Littlejohn's signing ceremony March 27 at Strike & Spare on Western Avenue are (front row) Tennessee Wesleyan University bowling coach Aaron White and mother Zendra Littlejohn, and (back row) Hardin Valley Academy bowling coach Terry Disney and Grand Daddy Gerald Littlejohn Sr.

Signing Littlejohn is 'feather in the cap'

By Steve Williams

Devean Littlejohn has advanced to the next level in his bowling career.

And there may be another level after this one.

The first-ever TSSAA Division I boys state champion to represent Knox County signed an athletic scholarship March 27 with Tennessee Wesleyan

University.

The Bulldogs are currently ranked No. 21 among the collegiate men's teams in the nation by the United States Bowling Congress.

"I decided to go with Tennessee Wesleyan because I felt it was going to give me the best opportunity to showcase my talent, help TWU be even better and it's close to home," said Littlejohn, who attended Oak Ridge High but bowled for Hardin Valley Academy under the

Continue on page 4

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Breeden's game-ending catch gives Karns 2-1 win

By Steve Williams

Every Karns fan in the stands was probably scared to death, wondering if the right fielder was going to get there in time to make the catch.

But Elizabeth Breeden didn't let them down. She got there just in time to make the game-ending catch and give the up-and-coming Lady Beavers a 2-1 softball win over Anderson County last week at Karns.

"Yell, one of those (hit in shallow right field) is always scary, but you've got to have confidence and leave it all out on the field," said Breeden after the game.

Breeden came a long way and was only one step from the infield dirt when the ball fell into her glove.

"As soon as I see it go up, my first thought is to find the ball and get to it," said Elizabeth, describing the play. "As the outfielder, I have the call over the infielders because I have better position on it. As I get closer, I start calling for it - 'ball, ball, ball' - and I just go all out to get to it."

The second baseman heard Breeden's call and pulled up to prevent a collision.

It was a huge play by the junior, who is a three-year starter and can play any of the three outfield positions.

It was Karns' second big District 3-AAA win of the season. The week before, the Lady Beavers had upset Powell 8-3.

Anderson County had suffered its first district loss the night before against Powell.

"I think coming out early in the season we were struggling to find what worked," said Breeden. "But once we started working together, I've felt like we were pretty unstoppable."

"We work hard together. We've got individual talent and team talent and when we put it all



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

Karns freshman pitcher Taylor Spencer shut out Anderson County for the first five innings and the Lady Beavers went on to prevail 2-1 in the key District 3-AAA softball game March 30 at Karns.

together good things happen."

Karns took a 1-0 lead in the third inning. Alyssa Maples singled and Anna Kate Reichter beat out a dribbler to put runners on first and third. Maples scored on Shelby Armstrong's single up the middle.

The Lady Beavers added their second run in the fourth inning when Emily Cox doubled and scored on Abby McPherson's single.

Taylor Spencer pitched shutout ball through the first five innings, but it took catcher Gia Price tagging out the Lady Mavericks' Abby Buswell, who got caught in a "pickle" between third and

home, to keep AC scoreless. Buswell had rounded third on McKenzie Henderson's double when she got hung up in the rundown.

Karns Coach Craig Webb brought in Maples to pitch the last two innings.

"We just wanted to mix it up right there and bring in our other freshman to give Anderson County a different look," said Webb. "They were coming up to the top of their order in the sixth and seventh. I thought maybe we could get them off balance there with a different look."

Leah Elkins led off the AC sixth with a single and a Karns error put another runner on base. But



PHOTO BY RAY ASHLEY

Anderson County's Abby Buswell finds herself in a pickle between third base and home plate in the fifth inning of last week's District 3-AAA game at Karns. The Lady Beavers' third baseman Alyssa Maples chases Buswell back toward home, where junior catcher Gia Price would put the tag on her. Karns won, 2-1.

Maples got a line out to first base and a ground out to second to keep the Lady Mavs scoreless.

After Karns went down in order in the bottom of the sixth, Maples faced the heart of the AC batting order. Buswell led off with her third hit of the game, the next batter walked and a sacrifice bunt moved the runners to second and third with one out.

Maples got Elkins to fly out to center field and on the play an Anderson County base runner also was called out for leaving the base early. That would have ended the game, but the umpires got together and the call was reversed.

With runners still on second and third, that's when Kaitlyn McKamey hit the ball to shallow right field and Breeden made her game-ending catch.

"Elizabeth is our leadoff batter and one of the fastest players in the area," said Coach Webb,

recalling the play. "She can cover a tremendous amount of ground."

"I'll put our outfield up against anybody. We have nice speed out there and they do a good job of reading the ball off the bat and getting to it quickly. That was a big play. They could have scored that run and tied it up and then we could have gone into extra innings. But Elizabeth came up with a big defensive stop."

"And that's what we told our girls at the end of the game. Your defense is what won you that ball game."

It was a key win in the district for Karns.

"This win means were still in the hunt for a top seed going into the post-season run, and that's what we're trying to get these girls ready for and what we've been trying to instill in them," said Webb. "The talent is there."

Central hangs on to win home opener against Gibbs 4-3

By Ken Lay

A perfect record remained intact for the Central High School boys soccer team Tuesday night.

But after a fast start, the Bobcats, one of the hottest teams out of the gate in 2021, had to hang on to earn a 4-3 victory over Gibbs at Dan Y. Boring Stadium.

It was the third win of the young season for Central, which came into the match against the Eagles (1-3) with victories over a previously undefeated Seymour squad that had tallied more than 20 goals in its first four games. Central also beat one-time league rival and District 3-AAA heavyweight Oak Ridge in the Bearden Invitational on March 26.

Those wins were both 1-0



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Gibbs High's Alex Rhodes goes for the ball against Central players Kyle Keeler (3) and Gabe Katz in a game won by the Bobcats despite Rhodes' hat trick for the Eagles Tuesday night at Dan Y. Boring Stadium, 4-3.

shutouts for Central (3-0) and newcomer Taylor Aaron had the Bobcats' first two goals of the season. Senior goalkeeper In Mendenhall

opened the season by recording a pair of clean sheets.

Aaron added two more markers against Gibbs as

Central opened an early 2-0 lead.

The Bobcats had a 2-1 lead at halftime and extended their advantage to 4-1

in the 59th minute before Gibbs scored the final two tallies of the match.

Despite seeing his team post a victory in a geographic rivalry match, Central coach Chris Quinn was far from pleased with his side's effort against the Eagles.

"Thankfully, we didn't have to learn this lesson with an 'L.' We came in here after we beat Oak Ridge and that's something that hasn't happened in 7-10 years and we beat Seymour," Quinn said. "But it's like I told the guys, these guys know you and they want to beat you because they know you."

"Gibbs is a good team and they don't care if you beat Oak Ridge or that you beat Seymour. You have to approach each game with the same intensity and not

look at the name on the front of the jerseys."

Gibbs coach Tim Pittman was also disappointed with his team's effort, especially early.

"At halftime, we had to get on them a little bit and move some people around," he said. "They're a good team and we knew they were a good team coming in here."

"But they were more physical than us and I don't like that. If they get physical with us, I want us to get physical right back. We made three mistakes and those cost us three goals but we did a little better in the second half."

In the match, the Eagles got a hat trick from Alex Rhodes.

Central's other markers came from Andrew Kercher and Kyle Keeler.



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Not bad for his time

Record-setting performances happen in unexpected places, at unexpected times. It happened in a televised game in the days there

By Tom Mattingly

were precious few games on the tube.

On Nov. 9, in the ninth game of the 1966 season, Tennessee was unranked in AP's Top 10. The Vols and Kentucky were squaring off at Neyland Stadium in the home season finale, with the game being regionally televised on ABC. That was the good news, other than the Vols winning, 28-19.

The bad news was that the other televised game that gray November Saturday afternoon, the one fans in the Knoxville area couldn't see, was Notre Dame at Michigan State.

There was, however, history being made on Shields-Watkins Field. Tennessee fans watched in amazement as the Vols continued the development of a passing attack that amassed yardage in big chunks.

Johnny Mills, a wide receiver from Elizabethton wearing No. 85, caught seven balls for 225 yards.

(the residents of Elizabethton and Carter County were no doubt bemused when ABC's Bill Flemming introduced Mills to a nationwide audience before the Gator Bowl as a native of "Elizabethton, Tennessee.") He and quarterback Dewey Warren combined to set a pass receiving yardage record that stood for nearly 35 years, before finally being broken in the 2001 LSU game. That was the night Kelley Washington caught 11 balls for 256 yards.

Mills had 33- and 41-yard receptions in the first quarter, 12- and 33-yarders in the second period, a 13-yarder in the third, and a 72- and 21-yarder in the fourth. The Vols prevailed 28-19. The 72-yarder was for a touchdown that stretched the lead to 28-13, keyed by a downfield block from sophomore wide receiver Richmond Flowers.

"Johnny was another of those route-runner, good-catcher-type guys who did not have great speed, but had the ability to maneuver himself into the openings," said his head coach, Doug Dickey. "He knew how to fake and move, set up the defender, then end up somewhere catching the ball."

Mills and Warren were part of a stellar sophomore class that had to have caught Dickey's eye in his maiden season in 1964, including Austin Denney, Paul Naumoff, Warren, Mack Gentry, Joe Graham, Derrick Weatherford, Robbie Franklin, Bobby Morel, Tom Fisher, Art Galiffa, Rod Harkleroad, Ron Jarvis, Harold Stancell, Ron Widby, Doug Archibald, and Jerry Smith.

"Johnny was a competitor," said Warren. "He didn't think anybody could cover him one-on-one. He had great hand-eye coordination. He had moves that could fake me out. He always said, 'I can get open.'"

Mills led the 1966 team with 48 catches for 725 yards, both record numbers to that time. Mills more than doubled what All-American Buddy Cruze did in 1956, in terms of receptions and yardage.

Willie Gault came closest to Mills with 217 yards against Vanderbilt in 1981. Then came Carl Pickens with 201 against Kentucky in 1990, Stanley Morgan with a like number against TCU in 1976, Peerless Price with 199 against Florida State in the 1999 Fiesta Bowl, and Anthony Hancock 196 in the 1981

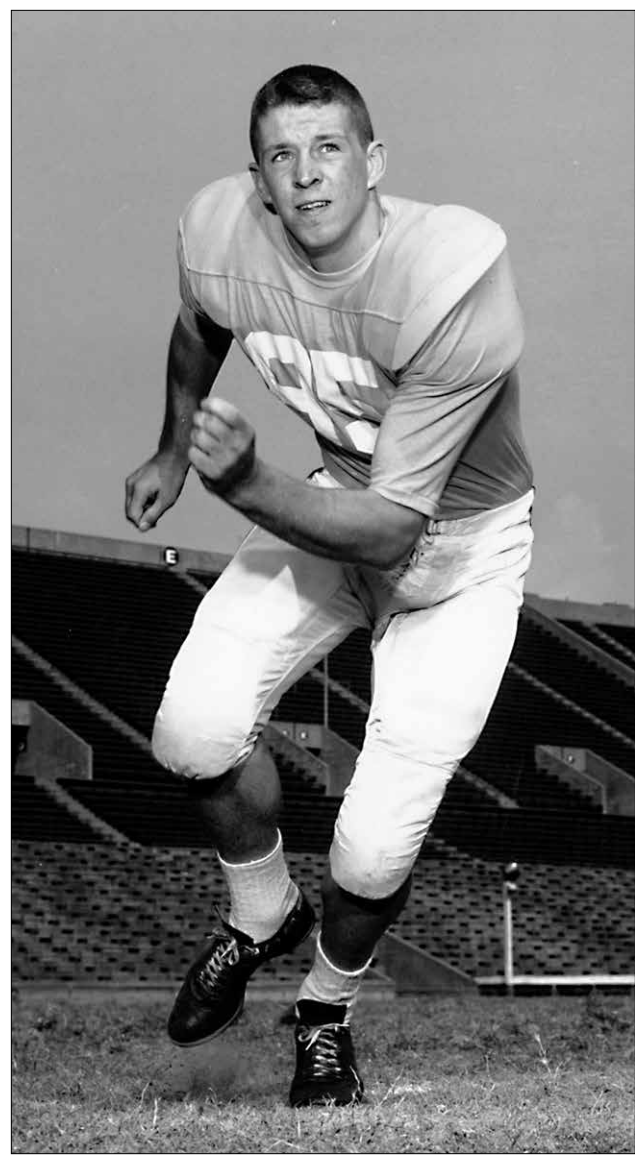
Garden State Bowl. Mills had a spectacular two-game run in 1965 and 1966, during which he caught 10 passes in the 1965 UCLA game and came back in the 1966 season opener against Auburn to catch 11. He was named All-SEC in 1966, one of four Vols so named, joining tight end Austin Denney, linebacker Naumoff, and center Bob Johnson.

"I remember thinking after the Kentucky game that I had a great senior season made all the better because I had broken my arm in the 1965 UCLA game," Mills said. "It was not for sure I was even going to get to play in 1966. I remember finishing the game and looking up in the stands, knowing it was the last time I would ever play in Neyland Stadium. It was a bittersweet moment."

Few records have lasted as long as Mills' did.

"Everybody had a time. I had my time," he said. "They probably look at those old videos and say, 'Boy, the guy sure is slow. He sure does run archaic routes.' But as they mature, they'll probably think he wasn't bad for his time."

Mills coached at both Cawood and Harlan (Ky.) high schools in the 1970s



Johnny Mills set a single-game pass receiving record in the 1966 Kentucky game, a mark that lasted for nearly 35 years.

before returning home, where he operated a greenhouse with his wife, Carla, until 2019. He was a 2012 inductee into the Carter County Sports Hall of Fame. He is also in the

All-Northeast Tennessee and Elizabethton High Athletic Halls of Fame.

Johnny Mills wasn't bad for his time, or anybody else's.

The Alabama Invasion

By Mark Nagi

So, I was in West Town Mall with my daughters a few weeks ago and I noticed something rather disconcerting.

No, it wasn't the utter lack of respect for personal space from fellow patrons, nor the ludicrous number of kiosks selling gear that no one needs.

It was the number of folks wearing Alabama gear.

This wasn't a situation in which a bus brought a bunch of Birmingham residents into Knoxville as a scientific experiment, to find out what happens when people stop being polite and start getting real. This was random people walking around, not connected in any way except for what appears to be their support for the Crimson Tide.

They were going about their business, waiting in line to get into the Apple store or picking up a "New York slice" at Sbarro's.

It was noticeable in numbers, and it got me thinking that this is in no means a rare occurrence in our town anymore. If you drive on I-40, you are bound to see license plates or bumper stickers promoting Alabama.

It's as if Knoxville is being infiltrated and we just don't know it yet.

This wasn't happening in the 1990s and early 2000s. Back then Tennessee was dominating Alabama in football, winning ten of their twelve meetings between 1995 and 2006. Unfortunately for Vols fans, the Crimson Tide hired Nick Saban in 2007, and since then Bama hasn't lost to UT. Only twice in the last fourteen years has the "Third Saturday in October" even been close.

This is traditionally a streaky series, and Saban can't coach forever (at least I don't think so), but

this is certainly the darkest of times for Tennessee fans.

And by examining this in what is admittedly a very unscientific way, it appears that some Tennesseans have jumped ship to support the flagship school at part of our southern border. I'm not saying that these are all Tennessee fans that defected for the chance to wear championship t-shirts. The people that I take issue with are the ones that have no real connection to the University of Alabama but chose to become fans for one reason and one reason only. Because they win.

I'm assuming that some of the same folks that I saw wearing Crimson at the mall also like the New England Patriots, the Los Angeles Lakers and Manchester United.

Now, I can see where perhaps I come across as a hypocrite. I am a Dallas Cowboys fan, yet grew up in Albany, NY in the 1970s, back when the Cowboys were winning Super Bowls

and became known as "America's Team." But my allegiance wasn't spawned from the success (although I'm sure that helped).

My Dad was in the Navy, and the Cowboys quarterback at the time, Roger Staubach was in the Navy. That was enough for me as a bright eyed five-year-old, making decisions that have stuck with me to this day.

Hey... maybe the folks I am seeing around town are actually huge Alabama fans, and have been for decades. But I'd be curious to know if the folks I saw could tell me the name of the Crimson Tide coach before Nick Saban. I'd bet a Chick-fil-A sandwich that some of them have no clue the answer is Mike Shula.

The only way for this trend to stop will be for Alabama to stop winning (probably not going to happen while Saban is coaching in Tuscaloosa), or for Tennessee to start winning again.

Josh Heupel... the floor is yours.

Bearden wins 'ugly game' in holiday baseball tournament

Cont. from page 1

hits in the bottom of the fifth inning of the contest. The game was called after six innings due to a tournament time limit.

Trailing 7-5, Bearden scored four runs in what was its last at-bat.

Freshman catcher Brooks Wright, a University of Tennessee commitment, led off the frame with a home run to pull BHS to within 7-6.

Then, Kaidyn Herrick, a relief pitcher for Rossford (2-5-1), walked three consecutive Bearden hitters.

Herrick then retired the next two batters he faced before Bearden's Bryson Trammell came up with a base-clearing three-run double.

"That was just a big hit by Bryson and that was a big home run by Brooks."

Bearden reliever Tripp Spencer picked up the win on the mound as

he tossed 2.2 innings of scoreless baseball. He didn't allow a hit while walking one and striking out four.

Bearden may have had to overcome a deficit to reach the win column, but the Bulldogs started fast as they scored four runs in the bottom of the first thanks to a pair of walks, a hit batter, two wild pitches and a two-out error.

Rossford pulled to within 4-3 in the top of the third as Carter Hollstein had an RBI single. Ohio's Bulldogs

picked up runs when Trenton Bachmayer drew a walk with the bases loaded and Herrick reached on an error.

Bearden went up 5-3 after Ty Seritt reached on an error and later came home when Bailey Redmond drew a bases-loaded walk.

Rossford scored four runs in the fourth to go up 7-5 as Bearden pitcher Ethan Seagrist walked a man, gave up an RBI single and hit four consecutive hitters in the frame.

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	BEARDEN (Boys)
	Jon Attanasio
	A.J. Pruitt
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	Hayden Moseley
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Cameron Castleberry	
K.B. Carr	
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Matthew Murray	
Nathan Benton	
Denzel Jackson	
Dante Oliver	
Griffin Parker	
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Lily Lampkin	
Rachael Wilhoit	
Ava McSwain	
Ivey Jones	
Angel Archer	
CARTER (Boys)	
Brycen McKeehan	
Colby Reynolds	
Sam Watson	
Cade Ramsey	
Lane Webb	
UT LADY VOLS	Emily Saunders
Jessie Rennie	Tess Darby
Keyen Green	Jordan Walker
AUSTIN-EAST (Girls)	Anya Moreno
Saniya Andrew	Lynn Derria Drew
Shamyrah Essie	India Robinson
AUSTIN-EAST (Boys)	Jay Allen
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State bowling champion is going to Tennessee Wesleyan

Cont. from page 1

TSSAA's co-op program.

"The community (in Athens) also is really great and I think it's going to be a good fit for me."

Devean also had offers from University of Pikeville in Kentucky and Tusculum University in Greeneville.

"I just hope to go to college and bowl very well for the team and hopefully win the Mid-South Conference championship and see how good we can make this program," added Littlejohn, who plans to major in psychology.

"Bowling professionally is part of my goal and that's another reason why I chose Tennessee Wesleyan," he said. "I've heard a lot of good things about the coach, Aaron White. He worked very well with me when I went down there and visited, so I think he's going to help me get to that point."

Littlejohn won the state title on Jan. 20 in Smyrna, defeating Jacob Brown of Walker Valley 238 to 197 in the championship match.

Hardin Valley Coach Terry Disney said: "Devean rose to the challenge and had a good day (winning the state title). I think he's a wonderful kid and he was a good teammate at Hardin Valley.

It's been a great relationship all the way around."

"We are so excited to get Devean," said White, who is in his first season as TWU's new head coach. "He'll fit right in with our guys. They all know each other.

"It's absolutely a feather in the cap. Adding him to the roster will immediately add to how good we are going to be."

White, a Cleveland native, brings more than 34 years of bowling experience to TWU. He is a two-time Professional Bowling

Association regional champion and has rolled over 60 perfect 300 games.

The signing ceremony was held at the Strike & Spare Western Avenue in Knoxville. Those attending included TWU teammates CJ Williams and Hunter Hardaway and former HVA teammate Brodi Rukse-Hawkins.

Devean's mom Zendra wanted to mention his youth coaches Dustin Whitehead and Jason Day at the Strike & Spare Western Avenue along with

manager Wendy Cox.

"Floyd was his youth coach at the Oak Ridge Bowling Center, where Devean started his love of bowling," said Zendra. "Smyrna Bowling Center and Strike & Spare at Western helped Devean learn to compete with the best.

"We thank you all."

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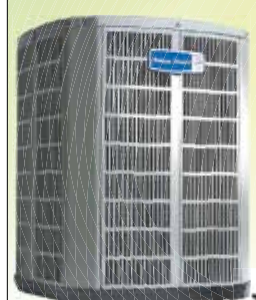


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Sleepers

Silence in the face of evil is evil itself; God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is now April 1st and Maundy Thursday as I begin this essay during Easter week. I am usually better organized writing my weekly column, but it has been an especially busy week finishing the draft of my novel and sending it to my editor.

Writing a novel is vastly different than writing an essay. I was fortunate to find an editor who enjoys science-fiction. Now, I wait with trepidation for her opinions. But as Rush Limbaugh once said, "You can't be afraid to fail or you'll never succeed."

Every writer wants to be read, so I thank each of you who are surfing my prose. I have never

claimed to be a professional writer. Writing is an avocation for me, not a vocation. I enjoy the creative process and I am a teacher at heart. And because Knoxville is a conservative enclave within a conservative state, I risk very little in voicing my opinions which the Constitution guaranteed. However, the radicals in charge are actively trying to suppress media conservatives like Tucker Carlson and political conservatives like Ted Cruz, and they silenced quarterback Drew Brees, who dared voice his non-leftist opinion.

On the Thursday before Easter many celebrate Maundy Thursday. The word maundy derives from the Latin word mandatum which means a command. During the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus commanded them to partake of consecrated bread

and wine in remembrance of him.

The Friday before Easter is celebrated as Good Friday. The name always struck me as odd since on this day Jesus was tortured and crucified. If you doubt me, watch Mel Gibson's historically accurate "The Passion of Christ." Good Friday was only good for us because of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice.

In his book "The Case for Christ," Lee Strobel presents compelling evidence for arguably the most important event in mankind's history. Emphasizing "e" words Stobel says Jesus undeniably Existed as a historical figure, he was Executed, his followers and others found an Empty tomb three days after he was interred, then upwards of 500 Eyewitnesses saw Jesus after his death and there was an Early adoption of the Christian message. Typically, myths take generations to develop.

And I offer two other observations. The same disciples who were covering in the Upper Room from the authorities after Jesus' execution, emerged boldly proclaiming the "good news" after encountering the risen Jesus. And secondly, I offer my own transformation and redemption.

Buddhists hold that ridding yourself of desire is the path to nirvana. Muslims say that everything is God's will. Hindus attribute everything to karma. Christians are resurrected and redeemed by Christ.

I'm a fan of science-fiction (SF). Some of you may be shaking your heads saying, "I don't like science-fiction." That's fine as long as you've tried it. I don't care for mysteries novels or Brussel sprouts, but I've tried them. And you should understand there are many genres or "flavors" of SF. I don't care for dystopian or apocalyptic, end of the world SF stories. However, I am fascinated by what the world might look like from someone else's perspective or even the perspective of a non-human. Technology enables this imaginative perspective in my novel.

One of the fundamental properties of the universe is a principle of physics called entropy. Simply stated, all energy systems run down. Clocks run down and stop. Spinning tops slow down and fall over. You get the point of entropy. A SF book by David Brin called "The Practice Effect" described a world where everything was made by "winding things up," so to speak,

and opposing entropy. As an example, chairs were made by continuing to rub pieces of wood together guided by the thoughts of a craftsman. Certainly, a challenging perspective, but I see a corollary in one's spiritual life. Practicing the Presence makes God more real to me. And ignoring the Creator causes that image and reality to dissipate in my life. I see this as spiritual entropy.

There is a pivotal moment in the magnificent science-fiction novel "Dune" by Frank Herbert where the protagonist has an epiphanal moment and looks to heaven proclaiming, "Father, the sleeper has awakened." In this non-religious novel, the father is not God, but the protagonist's father who was murdered. I sometimes wonder if the sleepers in our country will awaken.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran cleric who, in the 1930s and 1940s, challenged evil in Nazi Germany. A novelized story of his life is told in the beautiful book "Saints and Villains" by Denise Giardina. What is happening on our southern border is not a policy controversy. It is evil. Similarly, the Covid pandemic has morphed

into the pandemic of fear. In the midst of the Great Depression FDR famously said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." I believe we must recognize and resist the malevolent force that is driving irrational fear in America, and we must resist the millions who march under its banner and articulate its destructive message.

In the depths of winter, I began a New Year's resolution project. I decided to again read through the Bible this year, and to be more diligent in reaching out to those who have made a difference in my life. In years past I have thanked a high school chemistry professor who taught me how to balance chemical equations which helped me get into medical school. I have also thanked people who made a difference in my spiritual journey. Since I can't write to my readers individually, I will thank all of you collectively for making a difference in the life of this fellow traveler.

I wish you all a happy Easter. I encourage you to be courageous, "Speak the truth in love" and "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

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

Catching up with Tonya Stoutt-Brown



Bet you recognize this Knoxville lady and, if not, you don't follow social media. Tonya Stoutt-Brown has a radio background and, as a quirky character, is a hit on the internet.

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

You've seen her on television and on the ever popular TikTok app or you've heard her on Knoxville Radio. Now a days it seems Tonya Stoutt-Brown is everywhere in the media. She's animated, quirky and just plain appealing or appalling, depending on your taste.

The Knoxville Focus reached out to the Knoxville personality and asked her a few questions. Her answers may surprise you.

What are you doing now professionally or in retirement?

I'm a public relations and media specialist for Covenant Health, East Tennessee's largest healthcare provider. On the side, I do occasional work on the radio, that's my first love.

How did you get started in

your profession?

I decided I wanted to be in radio when I was about 11 years old, listening to Adele Arakawa, CP and Walker Johnson on WRJZ-AM. I got my foot in the door at WGAP in Maryville at the age of 18 because my sister was working there. After graduating from UTK I landed the gig I'm best known for - news and "personality" on WIVK. I left fulltime broadcasting 14 years later to focus on being a mom and I landed in public relations when I started looking for a job with regular office hours.

What's your favorite past position?

Working in media and public relations, you always wear a lot of hats with each position you hold. I love to entertain and inspire people, so that's been my favorite part of every

position I've ever had.

Who are some of the people you worked with over the years and do you have a favorite?

I've met so many people and had so many wonderful coworkers and associates. Some of them are well known names but many of them are engineers, office staff and maintenance people you've never heard of. I've had some of the best laughs working with radio engineers on live broadcasts! But if I had to pick a favorite past coworker - and he's not necessarily a favorite, but the sentimental favorite - it would be Ed Brantley. I learned so much about radio from Ed and I also learned a lot about life from him. He told me I should never let my work take over my life and that I should always have something or someone to go to

when my shift is over. That's made my life so much more rich and rewarding and has impacted many decisions I've made.

Tell me about your family.

I could talk forever about my family! I'm married to a wonderful Blount County native and I have two beautiful and intelligent grown daughters. My oldest is a teacher and my youngest is in college with a call into fulltime ministry. I have to mention my mom, too! She is 85 years young and has become one of my very best friends.

Do people recognize you often?

People usually recognize my unusual name or my voice before they recognize my face. That happened a lot when I worked for WIVK, because the radio station

Continue on page 3

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Easter Parade at Morning Pointe



Last Friday, Morning Pointe of Knoxville had an Easter Parade. Residents came outside on a beautiful Good Friday! "We had over 150 participants and about 35 groups that walked/drove in the parade!" Kari Christopher, life enrichment director, told The Focus.

"We wanted to find a way to protect our residents but still invite all of our volunteers in to share Easter with us! The Blount Co. Sheriff's Office, Knoxville Rescue Squad ladder truck, Southern Tops Cloggers, Shriners, Greenback Beta Club, Girl Scouts, and so many more!"



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WANTED

FULL OR PART TIME CAREGIVER NEEDED M-F 12AM-8AM FOR ELDERLY FEMALE, CPR/FIRST AID CERTIFIED PREFERRED, CARE NEEDS ARE MINIMAL OVERNIGHT. TEXT OR CALL 865-789-3450

*******WANTED*******
BROKEN PUSH & RIDING MOWERS \$10-20 PUSH OR \$40-100 RIDING MUST BE COMPLETE
865-933-9660
LEAVE PHONE # IF NO ANSWER

service directory

ALTERATIONS

JOANNE'S ALTERATIONS
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 SPECIALIZING IN JEANS.
 CALL 579-2254 OR 438-5614

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 (865) 673-8223
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 Night Shift 4:30 pm - 12 midnight

CLEANING

INDEPENDENT CLEANING SERVICE, SPRING CLEANING AVAILABLE, ALSO REGULAR CLEANING. 828-400-7161

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 Knoxville, TN 37918
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FOUNTAIN CITY AUCTION

4109 Central Avenue Pike
 Knox., TN 37912
 Ph. 865-604-3468

TAL# 687

TFL# 5223

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